

**CHILDCARE
IS THE
BIG ISSUE**
Joan Ruddock backs
our campaign
NEWS, PAGE 6

**TESTING
TIME FOR THE
WEST INDIES**
Clive Lloyd fears the
English cricketers
SPORT

**MEETING
THE MOUTHY
ANORAK**
Deborah Ross on
Janet Street-Porter
INTERVIEW, PAGE 14

**GETTING TO
GRIPS WITH
FRAUD**
New legal coverage
begins today
LAW, PAGE 21

THE INDEPENDENT

Monday 23 February 1998 45p No 3,541

Saddam and UN hammer out deal

By Robert Fisk
in Baghdad

SADDAM Hussein can stay. That appears to be the deal that was cobbled together in Baghdad between Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, and the Iraqi president yesterday. UN inspectors will go on hanging on the doors of presidential palaces at midnight if they wish and UN weapons inspectors will go on watching Iraq's factories and military sites through automatic cameras. But UN sanctions can end when the organisation is satisfied that it has full compliance with inspections and that no further biological or chemical weapons are being made.

The United States Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, whom UN officials fear has developed a personal obsession with President Saddam, is likely to be enraged by the type of agreement emerging here last night. For she - and many politicians on Capitol Hill - have always defined UN Security Council resolution 687 as a means of destroying the Iraqi president as well as ridding the world of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. Because of its references to human rights, the Americans have argued, the UN's harsh economic sanctions can only end when President Saddam goes.

But the deal which Mr Annan appears to have come up with seems to imply that sanctions would end once the problem of weapons of mass destruction is dealt with. This is a very different interpretation from that of Mrs Albright. In other words, she and President Bill Clinton will no longer be able to maintain sanctions as a method of ridding themselves of President Saddam.

The UN spokesman, Fred Eckhard, arrived to tell us Mr Annan was "on the verge of a breakthrough" to end the Iraqi crisis after three hours of talks with President Saddam. Mr Eckhard could have been standing above New York's East River, deciding the future of war or peace; which, in a sense, he was.

For if you believed what Mr Annan's spokesman was telling - and how the Americans just have been driven to distraction as they watched him - then the Iraqi leader had done

a deal which will force all the President's soldiers and all the President's men to march back down the hill again, pack up their Stealthis and send a large part of their fleet out of the Gulf.

So what was the deal? Mr Annan was meeting again last night with the Iraqi deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, to sort out one final detail. In the grim hallways of the Republican Palace in south Baghdad the two men discussed what has come to be called the "time element": exactly when UN sanctions will be lifted. When the arms inspectors complete their work? Or with the downfall of President Saddam (the American version)? Mr Annan seems to have won agreement on the first - which means, if the United States agrees, that the inspectors will be given access to the large pseudo-Habsburg palaces around Iraq.

The palace sites may be visited by the inspectors with other foreign officials present. Furthermore, President Saddam is known to have complained to at least one foreign minister that cameras inside his palaces could be used to watch his meetings and learn of his political decisions; there would have to be rules to prevent this intrusion into the "sovereign" affairs of Iraq.

But is this really the great "breakthrough" that Mr Eckhard promises us? In one off-hand remark to a journalist, he said that Mr Annan would have to "sell" his deal to the Security Council - which suggests that it is far from being cut-and-dried. If the Americans accept the new system of presidential site inspections, are they going to be able to represent their massive military escalation in the Gulf as a political victory - especially when it becomes clear that Saddam has acceded to the UN inspectors in return for his own continued rule?

Last night, threateningly, Mrs Albright responded to news of Mr Annan's negotiations: "It is possible that he will come with something we don't like, in which case we will pursue our national interest."

Under the plan which Mr Annan appears to be defining, the UN would recognise different categories of suspected weapons sites.

Reports, pages 10 and 11

Glass act: Linda turns Paul into an art revival



The fab eight: an image created by Linda McCartney and Brian Clarke using stained glass photography and called 'Eight Pauls'

Exclusive

By David Lester
Arts News Editor

LINDA McCartney is helping to spearhead a revival of an art form that has been dormant for more than 100 years - stained-glass photography.

Working with her friend, the artist Brian Clarke, she has put on an exhibition of stained-glass photog-

raphy in what must be the most exclusive art venue in the world - the 13th-century Cistercian abbey at Romont, high in the Swiss Alps. Unsurprisingly, the art world has failed to pick up on the exhibition.

They have been secretly working for three years on reviving the technique, which was last in vogue in the 1880s, and which Clarke has experimented with once before. They have now produced a number of stained-

glass photographs, including a set of portraits of Sir Paul McCartney as well as other celebrities, friends, flowers and urban landscapes.

The exhibition is likely to move to London or New York later this year. The pair have also donated stained-glass photography for windows at the Hammersmith Hospital and Rye Memorial Hospital.

Through a new process that they have invented, Linda McCartney's

photographs are silk-screened on to mouth-blown glass. Instead of using inks, the colour comes from using ground glass mixed with iron oxide that is then fired in a kiln at 1,200°C. The surface of the glass melts, the ground glass in the pigment melts and the two fuse.

The pair kept the project secret for three years, says Clarke, "as we did not want what is a very difficult technique to be plagiarised before the

opening of the Romont exhibition. All the techniques we that we have used are known techniques, but nobody has ever put them together like this before."

Linda McCartney said yesterday: "Having enjoyed collaborating with Brian for many years on various projects, I'm very excited about this opportunity to show our latest work. As a photographer, the possibilities of this form intrigue me."

Windfall tax plan to pay for bigger back-to-work scheme

By Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

The Government is considering extending its New Deal for the long-term unemployed to anybody under the age of 50 who has been out of a job for more than six months. A sharp dip in the number of young people out of work means that older people can be included in the project, a move which could come as early as next month's Budget.

Andrew Smith, the employment minister, said: "We are considering whether it would be possible to broaden the general approach." And David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, said the Chancellor had indicated that funds from

the windfall tax might be available to fund an extension of the initiative.

Pilot schemes for the New Deal for young people are under way before the national programme begins in April, while in June a separate scheme for older long-term unemployed workers will begin. But the number of young people qualifying for the scheme is less than half the figure expected when the plans were first drawn up. There are now 118,000 16- to 24-year-olds who are eligible, compared to 250,000 a year ago.

The fact that unemployment has fallen so rapidly since the election has therefore created the leeway for an extension of the New Deal to essentially all of Britain's long-term unem-

ployed. It will be funded over four years by the £5.2bn windfall tax on the privatised utilities.

Mr Blunkett and Mr Smith were speaking after the Jobs Summit hosted by Britain yesterday for ministers from the other six leading industrial nations and Russia. The ministers, meeting in London, agreed a set of principles for ensuring high levels of employment and high social standards. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, said after the conference: "Unemployment for some, inequality and low pay for others, may seem to be a feature of the global economy. In all our countries, the challenge is greater cohesion."

The first three of the seven principles, sound macroeconomic policy, flexible markets

and fostering entrepreneurship, could have been drawn up by the last government. But the rest had a distinctly New Labour flavour, emphasising education, tax and benefit reform and equal opportunities. The British delegation was pleased by the consensus at the summit, as similar events in the past have been scarred by a clash of philosophies.

Mr Brown also emphasised the need for improved childcare, on which *The Independent* is campaigning for more Government help for working mothers.

On Wednesday Mr Blunkett will launch a Green Paper to consult on the Government's proposals for education and training throughout people's working lives.

Comment, page 16

Mandy gives birth to Baby Dome

By Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

With as much pride in his voice as any father announcing the arrival of a beloved offspring, Peter Mandelson made his very own birth announcement yesterday: the arrival of Baby Dome.

The Minister for the Millennium Dome took his arch-critics by surprise when he said a second, smaller dome is to be built alongside the Mother

Dome, currently under construction, to house a 6,000-seat auditorium. Junior will be used for shows featuring everything from steel bands to church choirs. Mr Mandelson revealed the plans when he appeared on *Breakfast with Frost* as part of efforts to win Britain round to the idea of the Dome, before details of the Millennium Experience interior are unveiled tomorrow by the Prime Minister. Beneath the Teflon-coated roof of the main Dome

on London's Greenwich peninsula there will be nine "zones", including one for a new game, surfball, a mind zone, with a virtual brain and a zone featuring a 320ft human figure.

There will be all-day spectacular shows in the piazza in the centre of the Dome, and if that leaves guests tired, they can try the rest zone, which has a dream-sequence ride, with visitors lying on beds.

Mr Mandelson may have thought "baby dome" would ap-

peal to sceptics like Lord Hattersley, former Labour deputy leader, who condemned the Dome as a waste of money. After the Millennium Experience ends, the baby dome is likely to compete with the London Arena, on the other side of the Thames. It was also disclosed that at a private meeting last week Mr Mandelson appealed to the Tories to stop knocking the Dome because it might put off sponsors. But it had no effect: on the Tory culture

spokesman, Francis Maude, who accused Mr Mandelson of fibbing to keep the Tories quiet. Clearly Mr Maude will have to take a term in the "rest zone".

Dome details, page 7



**Better performance.
Better prices.
Better call now! 0345 023 985**

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| The Fujitsu LifeBook 900 series - Raw computing power | Intel Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology System memory Hard drive CD-ROM drive Display | 233 MHz 32-160 Mb SDRAM 3.6G 20X modular 13.3" XGA TFT |
| The Fujitsu LifeBook 700 series - Performance & all round functionality | Intel Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology System memory Hard drive CD-ROM drive Display | 133 - 166 MHz 16-96 Mb SDRAM 1.6 - 3.2 Gb 20X modular (optional) 12.1" SVGA STN or TFT |
| The Fujitsu LifeBook 600 series - The ultimate in mobile computing | Intel Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology System memory Hard drive CD-ROM drive Display | 200 MHz 32-96 Mb SDRAM 3.2 Gb 20X in LAN enhancement unit 12.1" XGA TFT |

Warranty
3 year International - courier collect & return
All models include Word 97 CD
For further information please contact: FUJITSU EXPRESS RESPONSE CENTRE, FREEPOST 102716, Slough, North Yorkshire, NN2 2JY. Tel: 0345 023 985 Fax: 01753 762 858


Job Title _____
Company Name/Address _____
Post Code _____ Tel No _____
Fax No _____
E-Mail _____

intel inside
pentium® 471

FUJITSU
PC • NOTEBOOKS • SERVERS



Peter Mandelson: is his birth premature?

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>DELL DIMENSION™ XPS D266</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INTEL PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR 266MHZ • INTEL 440LX AGPSET • 64MB SDRAM • 512KB INTERNAL CACHE • 4.3GB HARD DRIVE • STB VELOCITY NVIDIA AGP GRAPHICS CARD WITH 4MB SGRAM VIDEO MEMORY • 15" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (0.28 DOT PITCH, 13.75" VIEWABLE AREA) • 3 PC, 1 ISA, 1 PC/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS • 14/32X CD-ROM DRIVE • YAMAHA XG SOFTWARE WAVELENGTH SOUND (SPEAKERS OPTIONAL) • MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS • WINDOWS 95 AND MICROSOFT® OFFICE 97 SMALL BUSINESS EDITION <p>£1,099 (£1,326.58) <small>INC. DELIVERY & VAT</small></p> | <p>DELL DIMENSION™ XPS D333</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INTEL PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR 333MHZ • INTEL 440LX AGPSET • 64MB SDRAM • 512KB INTERNAL CACHE • 6.4GB HARD DRIVE • STB VELOCITY NVIDIA AGP VIDEO CARD WITH 4MB SGRAM VIDEO MEMORY • 17" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (0.28 DOT PITCH, 15.9" VIEWABLE AREA) • 3 PC, 1 ISA, 1 PC/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS • 14-32X CD-ROM DRIVE • YAMAHA XG SOFTWARE WAVELENGTH SOUND (SPEAKERS OPTIONAL) • MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS • WINDOWS 95 & MICROSOFT OFFICE 97 SMALL BUSINESS EDITION <p>£1,449 (£1,737.83) <small>INC. DELIVERY & VAT</small></p> | <p>DELL DIMENSION™ XPS D300 MT MULTIMEDIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INTEL PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR 300MHZ • INTEL 440LX AGPSET • 64MB SDRAM • 512KB INTERNAL CACHE • 8.4GB HARD DRIVE • STB VELOCITY NVIDIA AGP VIDEO CARD WITH 4MB SGRAM VIDEO MEMORY • HIGH PERFORMANCE TCO 17" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (0.26 DOT PITCH, TRINITRON® CRT, 15.65" VIEWABLE AREA) • 3 PC, 1 ISA, 1 PC/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS • DVD MULTIMEDIA SUBSYSTEM: DVD ROM DRIVE AND DECODER CARD • AWE 64 SOUND AND ALTEC LANSING ACS45 SPEAKERS • JOMEGA ZIP DRIVE AND 3X100MB CARTRIDGES • MINI TOWER CHASSIS • WINDOWS 95 & MICROSOFT OFFICE 97 SMALL BUSINESS EDITION • US ROBOTICS 56Kbps MODEM <p>£1,779 (£2,125.58) <small>INC. DELIVERY & VAT</small></p> | <p>Value for money today - plus the speed and the specs. to keep you ahead well into the future. That's precisely what our three latest Pentium® II processor-based systems deliver. Read the specifications, then call the world's largest direct PC manufacturer* or get online to our website quickly. We can't hold these prices long.</p> <p><small>*Source IDC</small></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>TALK DIRECT TO US 02 70 00 70 00 <small>BETWEEN 9 AM AND 5 PM</small></p> <p>To order online 24 hours: www.dell.com/uk</p> <p>DELL®</p> </div> |
|---|--|---|--|

ITV gives new docu-soap prime billing

By Paul McCann
Media Correspondent

THE TAKEOVER of television by documentary soaps passed a key marker this weekend when ITV announced that it was moving its long-running soap *The Bill* to make way for a new fly-on-the-wall series.

Airline, a documentary which follows the passengers and crew of Britannia Airways flights at the height of the holiday season, will start on March 6 at 8pm on ITV. It has been put in the peak time slot which inherits *Coronation Street*'s audience. The commercial network rarely puts an unknown new programme in such a slot and has never previously moved *The Bill*.

ITV has already poached Grant Mansfield, former managing editor of network features at the BBC who commissioned the BBC's *Airport* and a host of other documentaries and ITV's controller of programmes has said popular factual programmes will be used to lift the channel's ratings.

Joe Houlahan, series producer of the *Airline*, was delighted at ITV's decision: "This timeslot reflects ITV's commitment to promote factual programmes. It certainly makes me feel they are going to give



A scene from *Airline*, touted as the next cult programme

it as much support as they can."

ITV is catching up with the BBC's "docu-soap" makers who in the last few weeks started airing series about Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Longleat and Tesco. This week the BBC will begin airing *Premier Passions*, about Middlesbrough football club and a series about GPs, but a backlash against the genre has started inside the corporation.

Two weeks ago BBC 1's controller, Peter Salmon, told a meeting of independent production companies that he didn't want to see any more straightforward "soap-docs" proposals. "It was pointed out at the meeting that there was a danger of viewer fatigue," said a spokesman for the BBC. "Particularly if the programmes become more and more imitative."

Where once the fly-on-the-wall genre was a mainstay of BBC 2 and Channel 4, and tackled more highbrow subjects like *The House*, which studied the Royal Opera House, concerns are growing that they are a cheap form of popular TV.

Paul Watson, who made the ground-breaking fly-on-the-wall, *The Family*, in 1974, hit out at the new docu-soaps last week. "There is no analysis, no insight, no unexpected side to the story, no light shed," he said. "The recent programmes put out by both the BBC and ITV on quarrelling neighbours were truly wretched. Their only function seems to have been to turn the rest of us into Peeping Toms."

Television executives are planning and marketing their soap-docs like old-fashioned soaps with actors. ITV flew three of the stars of *Airline* to Spain for a press launch last week, giving tabloid show business reporters access to them for background interviews in case they become as big as Maureen Rees, the star of *Driving School*. Prime candidate for fame in *Airline* is certain to be BJ Aldridge, a camp cabin manager with a fine line in cutting wit.

Slip under the hype of fashion



Fashion-week shows: Glamour (above) by Ronit Zilkha and (below) by design duo Pearce Florida Photographs: Ben Elwes

By Melanie Rickey

THE curious thing about London Fashion Week (LFW) is that everyone thinks it is stock full of weird cutting-edge designers who inhabit a netherworld of obscure design references and loud music.

This is true if you believe the hype that surrounds the event, but in reality this is just not the case. The majority of shows at LFW do not create hype at all. Heard of Ronit Zilkha? No? She does a mean work-suit and Esther Rantzen, Cerie Blair, Maureen Lipman and Gaby Roslin are big fans.

When she held her first show in 1996, Zilkha already had three successful shops. This is unusual, generally designers at LFW have no stockists at all when they start out. She is also a curiosity because the women she famously dresses are all of a certain power-dressing type, leading most people to assume her stock in trade is wide-shouldered jackets with gilt buttons, just as they assume she is forty-something. Neither is true.

Zilkha always shows several elements to her collection. "I like to design for every kind of woman, I don't want to miss any-



body out," she says. Just after the show foreign store buyers swarmed all over the clothes, exclaiming in stilted English over the drape of a certain beaded dress, and the fluffy sheepskin cuffs of a brocade jacket.

Betty Jackson, like Zilkha, has legions of fans, but the beauty of her clothes is that they have attracted new followers every season since she launched in 1981. Her clothes don't shout fashion, merely "wear me", but they are always fashionable in the sense that the women who wear them, like Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley, are always perfectly in style.

In complete contrast to what is known as "real clothes for real women day" design duo Pearce Florida, known for their wearable glamour, were clearly chasing potential Oscar clients with a sumptuous collection that was 90 per cent evening wear. The duo, who also design a diffusion line called Pearce II Florida, have said they are happy to provide their more day-to-day clothing to Debenhams.

In addition, Phillip Treacy, he of the magnificent hats, showed his once-yearly collection last night outside the Natural History Museum. The usual celebrity buzz of his show was heightened with clothes by Antony Price, the British couturier who is among those tipped for the head designer job at Versace Couture.

Move to curb use of CCTV footage

By Paul McCann

THE GOVERNMENT plans to ban television programmes and video makers from using footage from security cameras as entertainment.

Home Office Minister Alan Michael said the Government is worried the public will turn against the proliferation of close-circuit cameras in public places if they think they are used for intrusive TV programmes rather than catching criminals.

Several television shows have evolved from the increased use of private security videos and emergency services videos. More intrusive still are cheap-

to-produce videos that use compilations of voyeuristic footage of car crashes and street disorders. The ban will be included in a new Bill to regulate the private security industries which the Home Office is planning.

There are already restrictions on closed-circuit cameras which are funded by the Home Office. Mr Michael said he intended extending these regulations to cover all CCTV video pictures. This will include emergency service closed-circuit videos as well as private footage.

He said yesterday: "I think in general the public are quite happy with the idea of CCTV being used so the police can act

quickly." "If people get the impression that it is not being used to help the police and is being abused it could undermine public confidence."

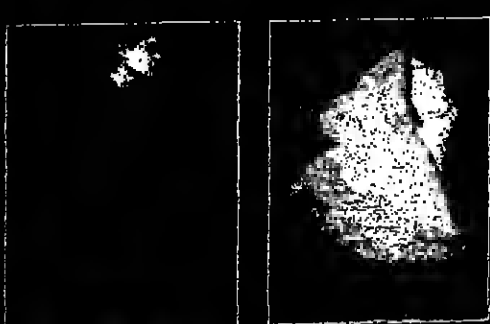
Last year an Essex man failed to get the High Court to rule that Brentwood Council had acted unlawfully by supplying film of him attempting suicide to Anglia TV and the BBC's *Crime Beat* programme.

However, both the Independent Television Commission and the Broadcasting Standards Commission agreed that through human error, the privacy of the man had been infringed.

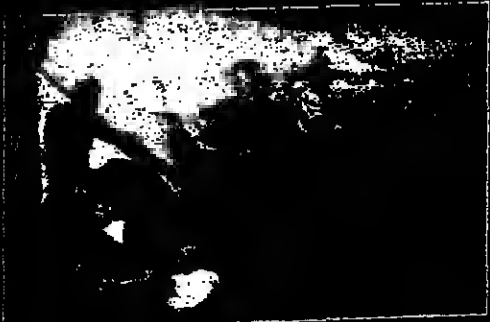
The Independent

fashion

Spring 98 special



Art and fashion are having a fling. Our 48-page fashion special gets you up to date with the latest from both worlds. Sarah Moon photographs this spring's newest looks in the spirit of the season's muse, Frida Kahlo. Go behind the scenes with Vivienne Westwood as she explains the inspiration behind her new advertising campaign. And see exclusive billings by Richard Billingham, star of the Royal Academy's *Sensation* show.



Free with The Independent
Saturday 28 February

Plenty in store for millennial night-owls

By Kathy Marks
and Louise Jury

A QUICK trim on the 9.07pm InterCity to Manchester and a manicure in the Dog and Duck on the way home. Life in the new millennium will offer ever more chances for time-pressured workers to get their lives in order, according to research to be presented tomorrow.

Just as filling stations now sell newspapers, milk and even freshly baked doughnuts alongside the petrol, the Future Foundation think-tank is predicting "multi-functioning" as the way ahead. At a conference on the 24-hour society tomorrow, it will describe how increasingly flexible services - from hairdressing salons on trains to beauty parlours in pubs - will go hand in hand with a growth in the 24-hour society. Our shopping and sleeping habits are about to be transformed.

By 2010, predicts Michael Willmott, co-director of the foundation, we will be able to

24-HOUR TYPES

The Future Foundation has identified four types of consumer distinguished by their attitudes towards the 24-hour society. Fast Lancers, are the keenest, enjoying a frenetic lifestyle and believing life would be enhanced if services were available around the clock. Convenience-driven people, meanwhile, feel highly time-pressured and would welcome anything that helps solve their problems. Pressured conservatives are equally oppressed by conflicting demands on their time, but opposed in principle to 24-hour services. Past timers also object to the idea and would like the world to regress to the quieter pace of eras past.

Ten years ago you could not:
1 Buy a can of paint or a television on a Sunday.
2 Go to a hairdresser in the evening.
3 Buy newspapers at the supermarket.
4 Bank by telephone in the middle of the night.
5 Watch television news 24 hours a day.
6 Print your business cards at a motorway service station.

see a film, go for a swim and eat out in a restaurant at any time of the day or night. Grocery chains that have introduced round-the-clock opening will be followed by department stores, pharmacies and electrical outlets, he believes. The widespread demand for such services is already there, according to a major survey it

has carried out into consumer attitudes. Tomorrow's conference, organised in London by British Telecom and the Confederation of British Industry, will hear that only a quarter of the population consider themselves to be simply a "normal day person".

Almost half of those questioned want grocery stores to

open later in the evening. A quarter wanted them open all day and night. Two-thirds would like doctors' surgeries to extend their hours and more than half want dentists to do the same. One-fifth said they even favoured flexible hours for schools, as already happens in San Diego where parents can choose whether their child attends the morning or afternoon package of lessons.

A significant proportion of consumers also want pharmacies, newsagents, garages, clothes shops and record shops to open later. Most enthusiastic about such developments are people in the 18-24 age group - who are also the people with most experience of having actually shopped outside normal hours. Mr Willmott said businesses would need to respond by being less rigid in their perceptions of time and place, and by creating time-saving opportunities. "As a society, we are increasingly affluent, but the one thing that we lack is time."

Move on up.

Already many people are enjoying the benefits of our Direct Access Savings Account. No wonder when it offers you:

- Excellent tiered rates of interest.
- No minimum or maximum deposit.
- No notice required and no penalties.
- No limit on the number of withdrawals.

To move on up, give us a call today or contact your financial adviser.

0345 55 56 57
Savings has never been simpler.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Available on request. "Gross pay" - the rate of interest paid yearly without deduction of lower rate tax to eligible non-taxpayers. Rates may vary. Standard Life Bank Limited is a company registered in Scotland (number SC173955) Registered Office: Standard Life House, 30 Leith Road, Edinburgh, EH1 2NA. Standard Life Bank Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Standard Life Assurance Company and is a member of the Standard Life Group of companies. For your protection, telephone calls will be recorded. We may also monitor telephone calls to help us improve customer service. Standard Life Bank Limited is a member of the Deposit Protection Scheme established under the Banking Act 1987 (as amended). Payments under the Scheme are limited to 90% of a depositor's total deposits subject to a maximum payment to any one depositor of £35,000 (or £70,000 if joint). Further details of the Scheme are available on request.

Victims of child abuse 'bullied into silence'

By Roger Dobson

AS MANY as one in four women were severely neglected or abused when they were children, according to the results of a 20-year research project.

And one in 10 suffered sexual abuse as a child, says the research, based on a unique set of life histories of more than 800 women whose collective childhood experiences cover half a century dating back to the end of the First World War.

The study, carried out by researchers at the Royal Holloway College, University of London, found that women who had been sexually abused were three times more likely to have attempted suicide during childhood.

But although badly neglected by stepmothers, or abused or assaulted by fathers, neighbours, brothers and family friends, most never spoke out about what was happening when they were children. Many were humiliated, threatened, blamed, or shamed into keeping quiet.

The study, reported by Antonio Bifulco and Patricia Moran, of the Socio-Medical Research Centre at Royal Holloway in a new book, *Wednesday's Child*, due to be published shortly, is based on detailed interviews with women in their own homes dating back to 1975. "Even though some of their experiences were distressing to recount, the women often expressed relief that their accounts were believed, and seemed pleased to have the chance to speak to an outsider in confidence about what they view as important life experiences," they say.

Corroboration was sought when neglect and abuse was alleged, and in some cases sisters were also interviewed to get another view of childhood family life. The team found that nearly one in five had suffered parental neglect, but that figure rose steeply to 44 per cent

among women who had lost their mother in childhood. "Parental neglect was four times as common after the loss of a mother when a stepmother took over responsibility for childcare," say the authors.

A number of women looked after by stepmothers described themselves as Cinderellas, forced to do the housework while their step-siblings were given affection and privileges. The researchers found that sexual abuse was reported by around one in 10 women, but few had disclosed what was happening to them at the time.

"Most of the incidents of sexual abuse in our series of women were kept secret, especially the more severe ones where a third of the women were either threatened or bribed into secrecy. Secretiveness was imposed by the abuser in nearly a quarter of cases," they say.

"Children were often threatened with violence to their siblings or mother if they did not comply with the abuser's wishes, one woman's siblings were beaten if she did not comply with her father's sexual demands. In another instance a father built up his daughter's reputation as a liar so that if she did tell anyone she wouldn't be believed."

The team found that 17 per cent of the women who had been sexually abused had tried to kill themselves during childhood, and that in later life they were three times more likely to suffer with depression. It cautions against assumptions that the father is always to blame in sexual abuse: "Much sexual abuse is not from a natural father or even a relative but from family friends. If a child is being sexually abused, one cannot assume, as intervention agencies often do, that the father is necessarily the culprit."

The book points out that despite heightened awareness, children are still at risk. In the last recorded 12-month period, 28,000 children were added to child protection registers.



Cat cause: Animal rights campaigners demonstrating at Hillgrove Farm in Witney, Oxfordshire, where cats are bred for use in scientific research. There were clashes with police as hundreds of protesters gathered and 13 arrests were made. Photograph: Brian Hutton

Robinson to leave Treasury in shuffle

By Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

THE PAYMASTER General, Geoffrey Robinson, will be moved out of his Treasury post in the forthcoming reshuffle by Tony Blair, according to Whitehall sources, in an attempt to quell the Tory pressure over his private shareholdings.

Mr Robinson was yesterday again referred to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, over an alleged failure for three years to declare an interest in a machine tools company, Agie UK Ltd. It is almost certain that the charge made by David Heathcoat-Amory, a Tory Treasury spokesman, will be investigated by Sir Gordon, who last year produced a critical report on Mr Robinson's failure properly to declare a £12m offshore trust fund, which led to him being censured by MPs.

The Treasury dismissed the claims yesterday as a "joke", and insisted that Mr Robinson had put all his interests on the record. But the controversy surrounding his private shareholdings is causing continuing embarrassment to the Government.

The *Independent* has learnt from Whitehall sources that Mr Blair intends to move Mr Robinson from the Treasury to avoid undermining the credibility of the Chancellor's March Budget, which carries proposals to close more tax loopholes. Mr Robinson has been advising Gordon Brown on tax changes, but the Tories are preparing to embarrass the Chancellor over his Paymaster General's own offshore shareholdings.

Harriet Harman, the Secretary of State for Social Security, is also expected to be moved having failed to impress with her handling of the reforms to the welfare state.

House of Windsor joins the PR circus

By Clare Garner

The Royal Family is to put more money into improving its image following privately commissioned research which is said to have confirmed negative image held of them by the public.

The Queen met members of her family last week to discuss how to boost royal ratings. Focus groups reportedly described them as remote, out of touch, wasteful, out of genuine, lacking in understanding, poor value for money and badly advised. A spokeswoman for Buckingham Palace said last night: "It was suggested more resources might be devoted to communications." However, she dismissed reports that the Queen was to appoint her own £150,000-a-year senior spin-doctor with as "pure speculation."

At the Way Ahead Group sum-

mit, which happens twice a year to consider long-term issues, members of the Royal Family discussed results of the Mori survey commissioned after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales at a cost of £20,000. A key finding was reportedly that the public considers the royals to be badly advised on a range of issues by their "omniscient courtiers and official royal advisers." The royals are reportedly regarded as not understanding "at all" and poor value for money. They are seen as wasteful on account of their "apparent extravagant lifestyle" and remote because of "the many physical and invisible barriers thought to have been constructed around them."

On the positive side, the royals were seen to be trustworthy, an integral part of British society, respected, and professional in the execution of their duties.

Tax penalties in the post

The Inland Revenue was yesterday preparing to send penalty notices to hundreds of thousands of taxpayers who missed the self-assessment tax deadline.

A total of 810,000 individual taxpayers as well as 70,000 partnerships and 20,000 trusts failed to meet the 31 January deadline.

Most face a fixed £100 fine and those who have not paid their tax are being charged daily interest at 9.5 per cent. Those who have still not paid by the end of February will face a further 5 per cent surcharge.

Peak District quarry to close

A quarrying operation in a beauty spot which came under fire from Peak District national park officials is to close.

RMC Roadstone has announced it is to withdraw from Longstone Edge where it took over mineral extraction of fluorspar two years ago. The decision follows a move earlier this month when the national park authority stepped in to block a proposed expansion of quarrying in the park. Although the mining company initially said it would appeal over the decision, it has now decided to co-operate with the Peak Park. — Louise Jury

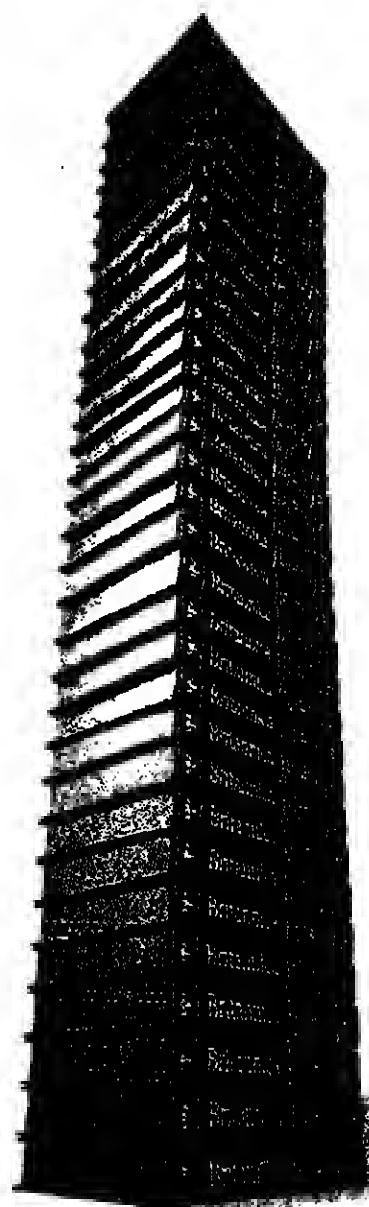
Laser hope for cancer

A team of British medics has made a breakthrough in treating a form of cancer with a laser and a light-sensitive drug, it emerged yesterday.

Seven patients have already undergone the revolutionary treatment for pancreatic cancer, which kills 6,000 people a year in the UK. All have so far survived. The results of a six-year research programme to develop the treatment will be outlined on BBC1's *Tomorrow's World* on Wednesday.

Lottery wins

Seven ticketholders will share this week's £8.7m National Lottery jackpot. The winning numbers were 16, 37, 2, 25, 45, 27 and the bonus was 10.



At £125, even the price fits.



Who would have believed it? 229 years, 32 volumes, 44,000,000 words and 72,000 articles, all squeezed on to two convenient CDs. Well, we've done it. And at just £125, even the price fits perfectly. What's more, we've even found room for some of the most exciting multimedia around. There are over 8,000 photos and illustrations, and many video, animation and audio files along with 15,000 related Internet links. To order your Britannica CD 98 Multimedia Edition call 0800 282 433, email ebrit@eb.co.uk or pop into your local book shop or computer retailer. Of course, if all this technology just isn't for you, rest assured our famous printed set is still available.

Encyclopaedia Britannica

Encyclopaedia Britannica and Britannica are registered trademarks of Encyclopaedia Britannica International, Ltd.

Time for Lower Factory Prices and the Best Showroom Service

We cut out the middleman
We sell to you direct because, with no middleman, it means lower prices for you. Our own showroom staff who specialise only in PC systems serve you directly and can give you better advice to enable you to select the right system.

We design our PCs to be future-proof
We make all the PCs we sell in Britain and can incorporate the latest PC technology to give you better specifications. Systems are designed to be easily upgradeable so that they will grow with you and not become outdated.

Try before you buy
Visit our local showroom and take a closer look at the quality and performance of our systems. Pick-up our PC Buyer's Guide and speak to our staff who will give sound specialist advice, in jargon-free plain English.

We get you started
Our PCs are pre-configured and ready for use with preloaded software. Simply plug in and switch on. Our unique 90 minute VHS video training and user guide covers all aspects of normal PC usage and you can watch it and learn from it at your own pace and at times convenient to you.

10 years of service and support
Our service is also direct and we have been serving customers for over 10 years. Who else can provide the best service but the people who designed and built your PC. Each store has trained technicians and an in-store service centre in addition to direct hotline telephone support.

Money back guarantee
Buy with confidence with complete peace of mind. We believe our products, services and prices represent the best value in the UK. If you are not happy for whatever reason, you can return your PC to us within 14 days for a full refund excluding delivery costs.

41 UK Showrooms



pentium®
200M Family PC

- Intel 200MHz Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology
- 32MB RAM
- 4.2GB hard disk
- 56Kb modem
- 24x MAX CD-ROM
- 3D stereo sound
- 4MB ATI Advanced Graphics using system RAM
- 14" SVGA colour screen (15" optional extra)
- 32MB cache
- 32MB stereo speaker system
- Over 2000 software bundle
- Network CD-ROM
- 60 Minute VHS video training
- Year 2000 compliant
- ATX mid tower with all standard features
- 14 Day money back guarantee
- FREE Epson 200 colour printer
- Product codes 14" 200 15" 207

£799
£938.83 inc. VAT

200M-2 Family PC
Best Buy model only £149 + VAT = £175.88
As 200M above but with faster 33MHz Pentium® processor with MMX™ technology, larger 6GB RAM, additional 32MB cache, 24x CD-ROM drive and 32MB cache. Product codes 14" 200 15" 210

64 64
Mb RAM Gb HD

233-2 Family PC

- Intel 233MHz Pentium® II processor with MMX™ technology
- 64MB RAM
- 6.4GB hard disk
- 56Kb modem
- 24x MAX CD-ROM
- 3D stereo sound
- 4MB ATI Advanced Graphics using system RAM
- 15" SVGA colour screen (17" optional extra)
- 32MB cache
- 32MB stereo speaker system
- Over 2000 software bundle
- Network CD-ROM
- 60 Minute VHS video training
- Year 2000 compliant
- ATX mid tower with all standard features
- 14 Day money back guarantee
- FREE Epson 200 colour printer
- Product codes 15" 234 17" 235

£1099
£1291.33 inc. VAT

233M-2 Family PC
Highest performance model only £199 + VAT = £238.88
As 233-2 above but with faster 33MHz Pentium® II processor with MMX™ technology, PC-TV system with Teletext and video capture, VideoPhone receiver, faster 32MB cache, 32MB cache, 32MB stereo speaker system, additional 32MB cache, 24x CD-ROM drive and 32MB cache. Product codes 15" 234 17" 215

EXEC Models

- Family Exec model includes 8 top games (RIP, 100%, 100%, 100%, 100%, 100%, 100%, 100%)
- multimedia files for just £79 + VAT = £95.88 inc. VAT
- Product codes 15" 234 17" 215

FreePhone Time Now!
0800 771107
All offers end 28th February

Buy Now...Pay August '98
INTEREST FREE CREDIT
0% APR

Only when purchased with a PC. Finance offer available on selected PCs only. Finance offer available on selected PCs only. Finance offer available on selected PCs only.

Finance offer available on selected PCs only. Finance offer available on selected PCs only. Finance offer available on selected PCs only.

Finance offer available on selected PCs only. Finance offer available on selected PCs only. Finance offer available on selected PCs only.

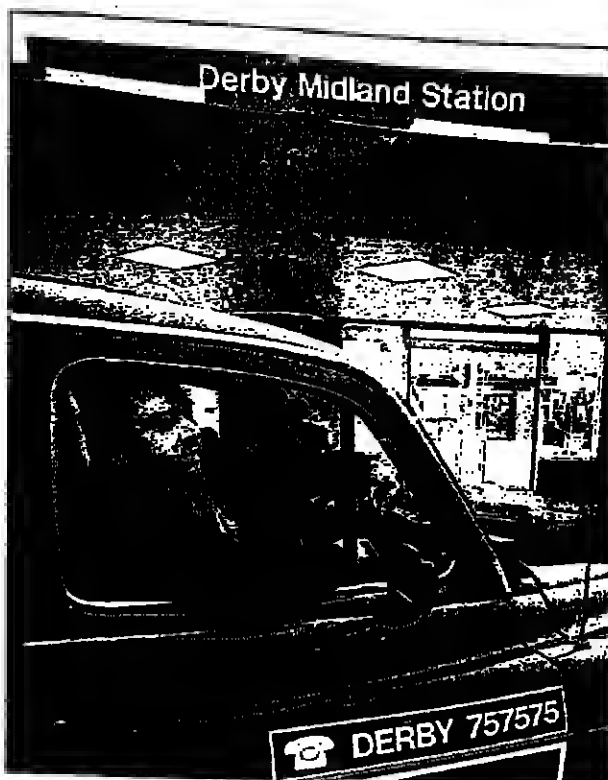
Finance offer available on selected PCs only. Finance offer available on selected PCs only. Finance offer available on selected PCs only.

Finance offer available on selected PCs only. Finance offer available on selected PCs only. Finance offer available on selected PCs only.

Finance offer available on selected PCs only. Finance offer available on selected PCs only. Finance offer available on selected PCs only.

Finance offer available on selected PCs only. Finance offer available on selected PCs only. Finance offer available on selected PCs only.

Rail passengers fight to save one-way service



Luxury service: Gary (above), whose taxi replaces the 6.48 morning train taking passengers like Richard Armshaw (right) from Derby station to their destination. Public hearings open today over plans to close the branch line to Salford. Photographs: John Voos

By Randeep Ramesh
and Esther Leach

THERE is a train service where passengers recline in leather seats, chat with the driver and get dropped off at their destination's door.

It is not a futuristic vision of Britain's rail service, but the story of the taxi ride that masquerades as the 6.48 morning train from Derby to Salford, an industrial suburb of the city. And, if the fat controllers of the private rail network get their way, its journey could be over for good.

Today, public hearings start to close the branch line to the two stations in Salford, a three-minute, two-mile journey from the centre of Derby, which costs £1.20 and for more than four years has been served only by a taxi replacing the scheduled service.

Although the taxi takes longer, the chief benefit for the three regular users is that they do not have to walk from the station - the taxi takes them all the way to their workplaces. One is dropped at his factory at Peartree, a stop half way down the line and the two remaining regulars are driven right to the door of the Rolls-Royce plant.

The downside is that the service is only one way. Returning in the evening they have to walk and take the bus - or a normal taxi at £3.20.

At the hearing the Midlands Rail Users' Consultative Committee, the local passenger watchdog, will hear objections from one of the three and Derby City Council, who claim that closing railway stations runs counter to the Government's policy of promoting public transport.

Asking for the line to be shut is John O'Brien, the franchising director who sold-off the railways for the last administration to the private sector.

Mr O'Brien says that trains cannot use the track because it is fitted with "outdated" track circuits which are "incompatible with modern rolling stock". It would cost £50,000, he adds, to allow modern trains to use the railway and another £20,000 to get more services running.

"As a consequence of this Central Trains has been providing a taxi service on a daily basis since September 1993 to convey the small number of passengers using the service," he says in his closure proposal.

Last week, however, passengers sang the line's praises. "We feel rather special," said Terry Hackman, as he sank

into the deep seats of the 75 Taxi, a black cab which drew up on time on Derby station forecourt, summoned each morning by the stationmaster.

Mr Hackman, who the principal objector to the closure, makes the journey from Belper to Derby just to catch the Salford express. He remembers the line's heyday after it was first opened in 1977. "When the trains ran quite a few people would leave their cars at home and take the train to save petrol," he reminisced.

"I have known as many as five people take the taxi. But there's usually three of us. I think one of us is away at the moment. We're quite friendly, on first name terms. The taxi journey takes about 10 minutes, which is longer than the train which took just three minutes. But this is a door-to-door service." In fact, the taxi has been not been near Peartree or Salford Central stations since 1994.

Richard Armshaw, one of the two workers who travel on to Salford and the Rolls-Royce factory, has been a fan of since he started using the service last September. "The only problem with the service is that there isn't a return leg. I have to walk a mile to a bus stop and then wait for a bus into town. I don't get home much before 7.30pm. I haven't had a chance to make my feelings known to the public inquiry about what I'd like to see happen, but it would be much easier for me if there were a regular service from Derby to where I work," he said.

On the surface, this appears just another bizarre tale of farce on the nation's railway. In fact, it is a victim of cuts imposed on the country's trainset. Built to relieve congestion in 1977, the Derby-Salford line carried at its peak 3,000 people a day to work at the Rolls-Royce plant. By 1994, cuts in services left just a few hundred passengers a day so the trains were replaced by buses, losing over 600 passenger journeys.

The passenger watchdog has also received complaints that the service was being run with the minimum legal service in order to drive away passengers. This would, experts believe, would make a closure attempt more likely to succeed.

However, the people with most to lose are the taxi drivers for whom the route has become a nice little earner. "It will be a shame if it comes to an end but we will have to wait and see," said Gary, the taxi driver.

Try voicemail for faxes free for two months.

Faxminder's like a homing device for faxes. A single number is assigned to you, not to any particular fax machine.

Which means you can pick up your faxes from any machine you like.

That's because, no matter where you are in the world, any fax sent to your Faxminder number is stored confidentially until you're ready to use it. So wherever you find a fax machine, your faxes can find you. Day or night.

Too good to be true? Well, try it for yourself - we'll give you two months free rental.

And eight weeks later you can simply sign up or sign off.

Freefone 0800 800855

for a
free two month trial.

www.faxminder.bt.com

Code: IN 507

70%* INSTANT ACCESS

Proof you don't need a big ad to create a lot of interest.

For more details on the Instant Access Savings Account that offers a consistently high rate of interest, please ring free on 0500 804 804.

**Bank of Scotland
BANKING
DIRECT**
0500 804 804

FREE USE TERMS: The connection fee of £25.00 inc. VAT and the first two months' rental are free. This special offer is valid on subscriptions from 26/01/98 to 20/04/98. Monthly rental after the trial period is £5.98 inc. VAT. Calls to Faxminder may not be available from a small number of other networks both in the UK and overseas and some private switchboards. Calls to Faxminder are charged at BT's "p" rate. Calls to Faxminder from non-BT fixed lines and from mobile phones will be charged at the appropriate prices levied by the network operator. Calls to your Faxminder mailbox are charged at Local rate within the U.K. There are additional charges for international use and for receiving faxes abroad. You must inform us 7 days prior to the end of the trial period if you wish to stop using Faxminder. If you do not, monthly rental will become automatically payable from month 3. For quality control purposes we may from time to time randomly tape calls.

Glenda Cooper assesses a new study on separation and hears a minister pledge to put the tax allowance debate high on the agenda

Quality of care 'affects a child's IQ'

GOOD quality care can have significant positive effects on language, social and emotional development, a review of studies going back 40 years has concluded.

The idea that young children are harmed by separation from their mothers is simply not true, says the Thomas Coram Research Unit at the Institute for Education. Family life continues to be the most important influence on young children even when they receive substantial amounts of non-parental care.

Last week *The Independent* launched its campaign for a tax allowance for working mothers, urging the Chancellor to invest in the nation's children. Affordable and quality childcare is the main barrier preventing women from returning to work. Nearly one-third said that they were discouraged from returning to work after childbirth because of the expense.

Working parents have to pay an average £6,000 a year out of after-tax income on childcare - more than they spend on food or housing. Parents pay more than 90 per cent of the cost of childcare - more than in most other advanced countries.

The Thomas Coram researchers looked at nearly 200 studies into childcare and argued that the ability of successive governments to respond to increased demand for early childhood services has been held back by ideology.

Dr Tony Muntan, one of the co-authors said: "If you look back to 1945 the state was a major provider of childcare because women needed to be in the factories. When the war ended then women needed to be got out of work and back into the home. How did they do that? They looked around for some scientific work to justify that the best place for the children was in the home with their mother. They came up with work on the notion of attachment which had found that children in orphanages did less well than children in the family home. They applied work in residential care to maternal care."

Their findings are backed up by a review released by the Institute of Child Health last year which said that those with pre-schooling have academic advantages. Its research encompassed eight important studies which stretch back as far as the 1960s. All eight studies showed that IQ was increased in children who attended day-care centres and the early gains helped to prevent later failure at school. Although the IQ-effect became less pronounced as the children grew older, five out of the six trials showed that children continued to achieve better results in reading, language and mathematics tests. Day care also appeared to have a civilising influence on the children, with teachers reporting that they were much better behaved.

"There isn't a scrap of evidence that putting children in day care while their mothers go to work is bad for their health or education," said Ian Roberts, director of the Child Health Monitoring Unit at the Institute of Child Health. "On the contrary, the evidence from well-conducted and controlled trials suggests that it's very good for children."

However, Dr Muntan warns that the emphasis must be on high quality childcare. An American study looking at more than 800 children found children receiving high-quality care had greater receptive language ability and pre-mathematics skills than those in low-quality care. But Patricia Morgan, author of *Who Needs Parents? The Effects of Children and Early Education on Children in Britain and the USA*, believes that many children in daycare suffered because they did not get the attention they would have from their mothers and so their cognitive ability was not as good.



Joan Ruddock, the Minister for Women, who has given the campaign backing, says 'What we're trying to do is create incentives for people to move from welfare to work'

It has to be financially worthwhile to be in work

THE Minister for Women today supports our campaign for childcare, pledging that the issue will be high on the Government's agenda in the coming months.

Joan Ruddock said: "I think the campaign is superb. It is a real indication that there is a major debate with which people are becoming engaged. Women themselves are beginning to realise they are having the opportunity to work. This is the contemporary debate for women, not only those who are already young mothers but those who are anticipating becoming mothers."

Ms Ruddock was appointed to the post of Minister for Women with three priorities: childcare, family friendly policies and action on violence against women. It is with the first two that she must prove herself in the run-up to the Budget on 17 March, and the national childcare strategy due to be announced in April.

What does she want the strategy to achieve? "It has to be financially worthwhile to be in work and this is what we expect to see from the Chancellor. The Chancellor sees it as an economic issue and we are quite confident that this means that he will in future take into consideration the tax arrangements which he deems appropriate. We are very pleased that this is the case, that we are the Government that has taken a new direction on childcare."

The main problem many women face is that they may want to go back to work but cannot afford to do so. "What we're trying to do overall is create incentives for people to move from welfare into work so the sort of changes we hope and expect to get from the Chancellor will be very much encouraging that opportunity and acknowledging childcare needs to underpin that role whether it is a woman wishing to return to the

workplace, whether it is a woman in a two-person household, or a woman in a lone-parent household."

What role are employers meant to play in the new childcare imperatives? In other countries they often share far more of the burden. But Ms Ruddock said: "We're already in close contact with employers... big companies who themselves have put into practice many of the things we would like to see made available - part-time work, job-sharing as a means of bringing women back into the workplace after they've had children and some of these companies have seen the return rate of these women dramatically increase."

"But we don't think that the workplace nursery is a universal panacea. It can't be because many people are living - and it's very obvious here in London - in a community where you're travelling a distance to work and you don't

want to take the child into the workplace for a host of reasons."

"Clearly, however, we are prepared to look at all incentives... It's not just about childcare. Some of it is about the family friendly dimension. For example, if you have a woman or a man who has responsibilities... as a good employer you should have a code of practice that says this person is known to have these responsibilities and so don't ask this person to work outside the hours they are committed to work."

She thinks many businesses are waking up to this: "Losing people from the workplace matters. It's been found in the case of ordinary employees that it can cost around £10,000 to recruit a replacement."

So far the Government has promised £300m for the creation of about 30,000 after-school clubs. But what about women who want to go back to work earlier? "We haven't

put a figure on under-five provision because that's a little less quantifiable... it's an enormous task," Ms Ruddock said.

The other problem that is facing the Government is the introduction of the minimum wage. Many child-minders are among the most poorly paid workers in the country. "It is important that people who are childminders are financially rewarded for their job if work. We want to encourage childcare to be made a job worth paying for and a key task the Chancellor has is what kind of tax arrangements we are able to make to underpin affordable childcare."

"At the end of the day we are going to have some priorities. There is a debate about whether we should be looking at providing for children up to the age of 11, 12, 14, 16 - this is an ongoing debate... and not yet finally resolved."

Brother Multimedia PCs from £799.99

FREE DELIVERY
FREE INSTALLATION
FREE SET-UP & TRAINING

The new range of Brother multimedia PCs gives you everything you could want - state-of-the-art technology, powerful features, bundled software, connectivity and great value prices. PLUS your system will be delivered, installed and set-up for you. We even include a half hour training and familiarisation session. Call our freephone hotline today or for a demonstration visit a Brother Dealer in your area.

255MHz MULTIMEDIA BUNDLE WITH FREE COLOUR PRINTER

- 233MHz Intel Pentium MMX processor
- Intel 430 TX PCI set
- 3.2Gb hard disk with Ultra ATA II
- 512K pipeline burst cache
- 32Mb EDO RAM expandable to 128Mb
- 14" MPRII multimedia colour monitor (0.28 dp) with built in speakers
- 64-bit video graphics with 2Mb and MPEG
- 56kbit/s US Robotics modem
- 24 speed CD-ROM
- 16 bit stereo soundcard
- Multimedia 98 v3 Software Bundle (two year)
- Windows 95

BT Internet

3 MONTHS FREE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET

When you sign up to BT Plan 180 which offers you 7 hours access per month for only £4.70 (inc VAT). Your system includes a complete CD package and instructions.

EAST • EAST • RELIABLE • ACCESSIBLE

INCLUDES ALL THIS SOFTWARE - EDUCATION • BUSINESS • GAMES

- Microsoft Excel 98 CD UK Edition
- Microsoft Project Scheduler - Self System
- Microsoft PowerPoint - Microsoft Office - Microsoft Express
- Microsoft Word 98 - Microsoft Word - Microsoft Word - Microsoft Word

£1399.99 inc VAT

Includes Delivery, Setup and Installation

£1191.48 + VAT

FREE COLOUR INK-JET PRINTER

Kyodai CALL OUR FREEPHONE HOTLINE 0800 919556

BT Shop, Lakeside Thurrock 01708 891234 or any of the Dealers listed below

London W1 0171 436 977; London SW18 0181 874 7744; Avon 0117 9249955; Bedfordshire 01462 700229; Cambridgeshire 01233 707000; Essex 01273 790007; Essex 01708 891234; (Harrow) 01273 629922; Glamorgan 01656 741413; Kent (Tunbridge Wells) 01892 510707; (Rochester) 01634 296900; Leicestershire 0116 2471105; Lincolnshire (Grimsby) 01472 341493; (Lincoln) 01522 511520; Norfolk (Norwich) 01603 403995; (Gt Yarmouth) 01493 604214; Northamptonshire 01604 715110; Suffolk (Ipswich) 01473 780080; (Newmarket) 01638 665230; Surrey 01342 872999; Sussex 01273 422842; W Sussex 01444 245290; West Midlands 01203 520510

1997 is a registered trademark of Intel Corporation. Microsoft and its products are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Springtime in the city

2 for 1 hotel offer

INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTELS AND RESORTS

The Independent and Independent on Sunday have joined forces with Inter-Continental Hotels to offer readers a unique 2 for 1 weekend promotion. Available at a selection of hotels in the UK and Europe, rates for these special weekends start from as little as £60 per room, per weekend and include breakfast for 2 each morning and all taxes and service charges. This fantastic 2 for 1 deal, which represents a 50% saving on the usual weekend rates, is available exclusively to Independent readers, and is on offer every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from now right through until the end of April 1998.

HOW TO BOOK
Simply collect 4 out of the 7 tokens we will be printing every

day until Friday 27th February. Choose the dates that you want to stay and telephone the Inter-Continental Central Reservation office on 0181 847 2277. Callers should quote 'The Independent Weekend Promotion' when making their booking. On your arrival at the hotel you should present your tokens in order to qualify. All bookings are subject to availability.

EASTER BONUS
As an extra bonus for Independent readers, these amazing weekend rates will be available throughout the Easter period at the London and Edinburgh hotels. The 2 for 1 deal (for 4 for 2 during Easter) will be an offer for a period of five nights, starting from Thursday 9th April right through to Monday 13th April inclusive.

Hotel Inter-Continental London

Located just off Park Lane, overlooking Hyde Park Corner and Buckingham Palace Gardens. With 458 elegantly decorated bedrooms and suites, a fabulous French Restaurant, informal coffee shop and modern health club and gym, the hotel boasts all the services and facilities you would expect from one of the capital's premier hotels. A brand new Club Inter-Continental executive floor is being launched in March.

Rate (per room per weekend) £189

May Fair Inter-Continental London

On Stratton Street, this five star deluxe hotel is perfect for reaching the Bond Street shops, royal parks, theatres and galleries. It offers superb accommodation and facilities including a stylish, contemporary restaurant, Opus 70, popular cafe, traditional pub and sophisticated play bar. Its health club boasts a swimming pool, gym, saunas and solarium.

Rate (per room per weekend) £195

Churchill Inter-Continental London

Elegance and comfort at The George Inter-Continental, Edinburgh

In Portman Square in the centre of the West End with the Oxford Street just two minutes walk. Recently renovated to the highest standards, the stunning Churchill Inter-Continental boasts luxurious accommodation, a superb restaurant, Clemen-tines and a new Churchill Bar & Cigar Divan. Guests have the use of a private tennis court just opposite the hotel.

Rate (per room per weekend) £189

The Forum Hotel London

Perfectly situated close to the shopping area of Kensington and Knightsbridge. With 27 floors, many of the hotel's 910 bedrooms and suites enjoy superb views over the London skyline. A wide choice of restaurants and bars include the Gloucester Road Deli with its authentic 'New York' atmosphere and the Kensington Garden Cafe.

Rate (per room per weekend) £129

The George Inter-Continental Edinburgh

This first class hotel occupies a classic Georgian Building dating from the 18th century. In the heart of the city, its 195 bedrooms and suites enjoy superb views over the city and the Firth of Forth. Dining options include a choice of three restaurants and bars including the recently refurbished Carvers Restaurant, housed in one of the most spectacular dining halls in Edinburgh.

Rate (per room per weekend) £109

The 2 for 1 deal is also available at Inter-Continental and Forum hotels in Brussels, Berlin and Budapest. Special weekend rates are also available to a selection of other Inter-Continental Hotels in Europe including Paris, Vienna, Rome, Cannes and Prague (prices on application).

token 3

THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

INTER-CONTINENTAL HOTELS AND RESORTS

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

To participate in the offer you must collect 4 different tokens from the offer we will print between February 21 and February 27. These tokens will be redeemable at any of the Inter-Continental and Forum hotels listed in The Independent and Independent on Sunday. All prices shown are per room per weekend (includes breakfast and VAT). All bookings must be made using the Inter-Continental Central Reservation line. These special weekend rates for a minimum 2 night stay are available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights from Friday 27 February until April 26 1998 (but include the Easter period as noted above). Rates are payable in local currency and do not include travel. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other promotion. All reservations are subject to availability.

Each of the hotels in the famous Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts Group is equipped with the highest level of service and facilities including: superb accommodation, great restaurants, room service, laundry and dry cleaning, in room satellite TV with movies, radio, minibar, direct dial telephone, complemented by the friendly, efficient service you would expect from the world's most global hotel.

A fantastic choice of locations is available, and each of the participating hotels is perfectly located for the city's shopping areas, attractions and places of interest.

Richard Rogers heads environment task force

By Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

LORD ROGERS of Riverside, the leading architect and Labour peer, is to be appointed by John Prescott to head a task force to help restore the green credentials of Tony Blair's government and defuse a row over the countryside before a mass protest march in London.

Mr Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister and secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and Regions, will announce today that Richard Rogers has agreed to help the Government identify derelict and redundant brownfield sites in towns, where more housing could be built

to remove the pressure for housing in the green belt.

"Lord Rogers is obviously a man with drive. His job will be to identify all those brownfield sites where development could take place. It will help local authorities, or give them a kick up the backside if they need it," said a source.

Mr Prescott will also tell MPs that he is adopting a new policy requiring at least 60 per cent of all housing to be built on brownfield sites. A windfall tax on building on the green belt is being considered but will not be in the Chancellor's Budget on 17 March.

Mr Prescott's friends believe that the Deputy Prime Minister's long-awaited

statement to the Commons will spike William Hague's Tory guns, which were lining up to give the Government a pounding in advance of the countryside march next Sunday. "It will be a killer blow for the Tories because they put 60 per cent in their own election manifesto," the source said.

The march is organised by the Countryside Alliance, which is promising it will eclipse last summer's pro-hunting rally in Hyde Park. A total of 1,900 buses have been hired in a show of strength aimed at forcing ministers to retreat on a range of issues affecting the countryside, including a threat to ban fox-hunting with a Labour Private Member's Bill.

The environment minister Michael Meacher will announce a further conces-

sion to the countryside lobby on Wednesday with a consultation paper holding back the threat of legislation to enforce a right to roam. The Green Paper will give landowners time to co-operate by giving more access to ramblers and it will exclude cultivated land, and possibly grouse moors during the breeding season.

In a decision likely to cause some ruffled hairs among the ramblers, the right to roam will not be extended to dogs. A source was quoted as saying: "New Labour is all about rights and responsibilities. If we give the dogs rights, how do we explain to them that they have responsibilities as well?"

Mr Prescott, writing in the *Independent* on Sunday yesterday, said he would be an-

nouncing a more "flexible" approach to planning, allowing groups of councils in the country's eight regions to draw up their own plans for how many new houses they can accommodate, and abandoning the imposition of plans from Whitehall to "predict and provide" growth in housing.

The Deputy Prime Minister also disclosed that he wants to develop four or five millennium villages in Britain on the lines of the plans he announced last week for a site close to the millennium Dome in Greenwich, south-east London.

In a move that will remind supporters of his old Labour credentials, Mr Prescott also announced at the weekend that he is appointing a trade union group chaired by

John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB general workers union, to provide advice to the Government on the environment, and its impact on industry and jobs. It follows private criticism from trade union leaders, including Rodney Bickerstaff of Unison, that Tony Blair appeared to be taking more advice from bosses than unions.

Mr Prescott answered criticism of his decision to allow green-belt housing in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, at a meeting of the Socialist Environment and Resources Association. He said the housing would be close to a railway station, and was one of the tough choices to be made to fulfil the pledges made at the summit in Kyoto, Japan, to halt global warming.

Tories reject Mandelson plea on Dome

By Colin Brown

THE Tories last night rejected an appeal by Peter Mandelson for a cross-party ceasefire over the £750m Millennium Dome project and accused the Minister without Portfolio of lying to win their support.

Mr Mandelson is alleged to have warned Tory frontbenchers, including Francis Maude, the spokesman for culture, at a private meeting last week that the financial success of the project was "on a knife-edge" and would be undermined by continued Tory sniping.

He attempted to secure Tory support in advance of the unveiling tomorrow by Tony Blair of the detailed plans for the Dome in an attempt to overcome the criticism.

Although the project has the backing of Michael Heseltine, the former deputy prime minister who is on the project team, Mr Maude hit back last night by accusing Mr Mandelson of not telling the truth, and calling for him to be sacked as the minister for the Dome.

Ministers are concerned about complaints from the public that the money would be better spent in reducing the record waiting lists for treatment on the National Health Service, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

But the Tories made clear that there will be no truce. Mr Maude said the Millennium Dome was intended to be "a new Labour monument", which the Tories suspect is being used to boost Labour's re-election

chances. He said there could be Tory support, if Mr Blair agreed to the Dome being opened with William Hague, the Tory leader. That offer is likely to be dismissed out of hand by the Prime Minister, but Mr Maude's claims infuriated ministers.

He said: "When is Peter Mandelson telling the truth? Was he telling us the truth at our meeting on Tuesday when he described the Millennium Dome project as 'on a knife-edge' because he couldn't secure the necessary sponsorship, or was he telling the truth when only a few hours later he announced that he had 'no worries' about its sponsorship?"

Mr Mandelson, whose reputation is resting on the success of the Dome, told *The Independent* that the Dome would be a success, and it could be sold after the year-long "experience" exhibition.

He has been approached by two organisations who want to take over the Dome after the year-long show was over, but he was also interested in the idea by Tony Banks, the sports minister, for turning it into a football stadium for the London bid for the Olympics.

Mr Mandelson also said on the BBC *Breakfast with Frost* programme that he could cut the cost to the National Lottery millennium fund, which is paying £400m towards the cost of the centre in south-east London. He said he hoped the gate receipts would be higher than expected from the estimated 12 million visitors in the first year, enabling more money to be repaid to the millennium fund.



Uncertain future: The Prime Minister is to unveil detailed plans for the £750m Millennium Dome project tomorrow, but it could be sold after the year-long exhibition. Photograph: Brian Harris

Unravelling the myths and mysteries surrounding minister's baby

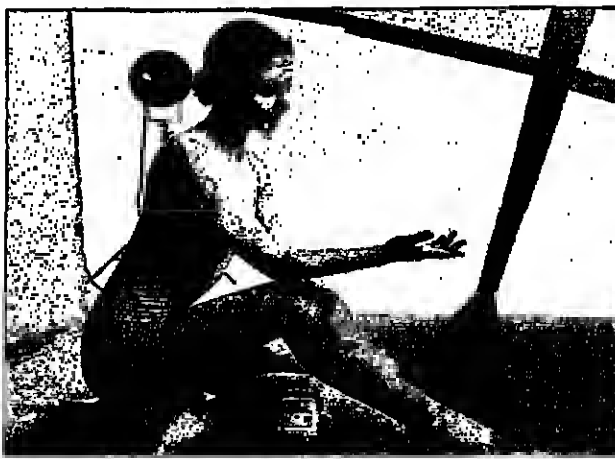
PETER Mandelson yesterday admitted that there was a need to "nail the myths" about the Millennium Dome which have led to doubts being expressed about the wisdom of pouring £750m into the project, writes Colin Brown.

Here are some of the issues on which the "Dome Minister" will be seeking to convince the public that the Dome is worth the money, and is not destined to become "Mandy's disaster".

Q: What is it for?
A: The theme is "Time to Make a Difference". Mr Mandelson says it will be "an opportunity for people to reflect, to take stock, to consider what sort of society we live and how we live and how we work, rest and play ...".

Q: What will it contain?

A: Details are to be unveiled by Tony Blair tomorrow but it will have at least nine zones - a work zone including a valley of ladders tracing career paths of the future; rest zone with a dream sequence ride in which visitors lie on beds; play zone, featuring a new specially designed game called Surtball; a mind zone with a virtual brain, and quizzes; a spirit zone featuring an Egyptian-style pyramid and multi-faith exploration of spirituality; global zone - self-sufficient rainforest eco-system; a local zone, showing a different town each day, with Stirling as the first, and the body zone featuring a 320ft human figure with a child surrounded by toys, so huge that tourists will be able to tour the internal organs.



Dancer Naomi Crouch has told Panorama that she is the model for Millennium Man. Photograph: BBC Photographic Library

Q: Is it taking taxpayer's money?
A: According to Mr Mandelson it is going to take "at the most" £400m in cash from the Na-

tional Lottery. An estimated £150m will come from sponsorship by firms, and £190m from gate receipts.

Q: How much will it cost to get in?

A: Around £17.50 a head but there are rumours of concessions for local residents in Greenwich.

Q: How many are expected to turn up?

A: Around 12 million in total, or 35,000 at any one time, but it could be higher in five-hour sessions, three times a day.

Q: How do you get there?

A: Jubilee Line Underground link from Central London, which has been beset by delays and disputes, but Mr Mandelson promised it will be open by the end of 1999; there will also be Thames cruises; plans are in for a park-and-ride system. Stansted Airport, where the charter flights will land for the Dome, is to be renamed the

Millennium Gateway.

Q: Will the Dome be torn down after a year?

A: The Dome is planned to be permanent. The Government changed the fabric cover of the Dome from PVC to Teflon. The Millennium Experience will last a year but it could be extended.

Q: What happens to the Dome when the show is over?

A: Tony Banks, the sports minister, wants to turn it into a football stadium for the London bid for the Olympics. Two organisations are bidding to take it over. It could be sold to private firms for a permanent exhibition. Got any bright ideas for the Dome - it is 330ft high, has 12 masts, and covers an area the size of four Trafalgar Squares? Send them to Peter Mandelson.

Unions cut £400,000 from donations to Labour

By Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

LABOUR's biggest benefactors are to cut nearly £400,000 from their donations at a time when the party is experiencing severe financial problems.

The public service union Unison, the Transport and General and the GMB general union, which together contribute more than one-quarter of the party's funds, have decided to make massive cuts.

The decline in the big

unions' subvention to the party is a barometer of the dwindling number of trade unionists, but there is also considerable disquiet among senior union activists about the political direction of the Government under Tony Blair's stewardship.

The Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Unions (AEEU), which withheld £250,000 from the Labour Party's election fund last year, is biding its time before deciding how much to give the party in affiliation fees. Sources at the

union say they first want to see the contents of the "Fairness at Work" White Paper in April, which will include proposals on a union recognition law.

One AEEU official also said they were keen to find out how many of its members would be selected for impending European elections before making a final decision. The £250,000 withheld by the engineering union was in protest at the Labour leadership's alleged practice of "parachuting in" middle-class parliamentary candidates at the expense of

its own locally selected members.

There is little doubt that reaction to the White Paper will be the main factor in determining union contributions to the party. Mr Blair's zeal in transforming Labour into the business-friendly party of government may have to be tempered by considerations about party finances.

The impending drop in union affiliation fees is accompanied by concerns about the level of Labour's individual membership. Senior party sources insist

that while membership has stopped growing, it is not declining. Party officials claim that it is simply "churning" with the number of leavers being matched by the number of joiners. Unions register scepticism about such claims, arguing that the true figures will show a sharp drop, largely because of disillusionment with new Labour.

The most recent figures from Labour show that it has incurred debts of £3.5m on top of the £4.75m overdraft built up in the two years to the general election.

Connery in knighthood row

SCOTTISH Nationalists are questioning the Government over reports that actor Sean Connery was refused a knighthood because of his separatist views, writes Andrew Buncombe.

Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, has been accused of personally intervening to have Connery's name scrapped from the New Year's Honours List.

Some might enjoy the irony of the man, who as his most famous alter ego, took on the likes of James Bond's arch enemy,

Smersh, to save the free world, being allegedly snubbed by the English establishment.

But last night the Scottish National Party leader, Alex Salmond, said that all Scotland would be outraged. "I think Donald Dewar has done his reputation irreparable damage. Sean Connery ... has contributed as an international ambassador very considerably." He said he would be tabling parliamentary questions.

Mr Dewar yesterday declined to comment but Maria Fyfe,

Labour MP for Glasgow Maryhill, said she was pleased Connery had not been knighted. "The attitude he has shown towards violence towards women is one that is not compatible with being honoured in that way."

Her comment was dismissed by the SNP as a crude smear. The party said it was certain the only reason Connery had lost out was because of his politics.

Connery, who will undoubtedly be shaken not stirred by the affair, has been a member of the SNP since 1991.

demon@beck.and.call

no-one makes it easier for you to get on-line than demon, europe's no.1 independent internet service provider.
so if you need any help when you're starting up, our support line provides it, 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.
for your free 30-day trial cd and brochure, call us on 0800 458 9666. or scribble your name and address anywhere on this ad, then tear it out and send it to us at freepost demon (yes, that's all you have to write).
it really is that simple, only easier.



Demon Internet

more people get on with us

0800 458 9666

www.demon.net email: sales@demon.net

Slave labourers to sue Ford for brutality under Nazis

Survivors of death factories are demanding compensation. Louise Jury reports

FORD, THE American car company, is to face legal action from men and women used as forced labour when the Nazis took over its factory in Germany during the Second World War.

Thousands of people, mainly civilians taken to Germany illegally from Eastern Europe and prisoners of war, were starved and viciously beaten when the regime turned its industry over to the war effort. Many are now seeking compensation.

Lawyers Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes and Lerach will this week launch their claim against the American car giant, with other United States and German manufacturers set to face legal action in the near future.

Although Ford had no control over its factory during the war, the lawyers believe it has a responsibility to those forced to work there.

A BBC investigation for Radio 4's *World at One* and BBC2's *Newsnight* programmes has revealed what happened in the car plant during the war years. In reports due to be broadcast today, victims of forced labour speak out about their time

at the factory and argue that they should be compensated now.

Elsa Iwanowa, a Russian forced from her home to work for the Nazis at the age of 16, told reporter Rob Broomby: "At the factory, we worked non-stop and were starving all the time. We were treated as animals. We had no names only numbers. We were starving and it was freezing cold. The work was extremely hard."

Her name will be put forward as a representative for the proposed class action against Ford. The lawyers Milberg Weiss have the details of another 2,600 people who worked at the plant, where production of military trucks continued nearly all the way through the war.

The claim is based on the principle of quasi-contract - that workers in the factory were employed and should have been paid. There is also the notion of "unjust enrichment" from the war-time labourers' work.

Mel Weiss, acting for the former workers, said: "The profits should be appropriated for the slave labourers and [the compensation] should be part punitive in

nature." Yet John Rintamaki, Ford's company lawyer, said that the Cologne plant was commandeered by the Nazis.

"They dictated what was going to be made, how it would be made, and the labour conditions," Mr Rintamaki said. "It's our view that this is a matter for the German government with respect to the actions of the Nazi government between 1940 and 1945."

The company believes that it received no profits or dividends from the factory, he said. "We've looked at the records again to try to understand what happened and ... as far as we can tell, for instance, Ford did not receive any profits or dividends from the operation in Cologne."

However, the BBC investigation showed that dividends of at least 5 per cent were being put aside as late as 1943, and what happened to that money remains a mystery.

Hans Grande, the 93-year-old former head of production at the plant, said that the intention was clearly that payments would be made to shareholders at a later date.



Roman Halter: 'People have no understanding of what the starvation was like'

Photograph: Rui Xavier

'It was known you were going to be murdered by work'

THE TALL, slightly stooping figure of Roman Halter pauses as if in great silent pain as he explains life as a slave labourer.

"Slave labour was a form of murder. You worked under the SS and it was recognised that you were going to be murdered through work," Mr Halter said. The average time spent as a Jewish slave worker was three and a half months.

Roman Halter, a Polish-born architect and artist now living in Surrey, is one of more than 160 known former slave labourers in Britain and a founder of the Claims for Jewish Slave Labour Compensation association which wants Germany to compensate them for their sufferings.

Slave labour was intended as an alternative way of killing Jews, by giving them a starvation diet and the most difficult and dangerous work.

Mr Halter's story is typical. Aged 12 when the war broke

higher form of hunger, but starvation was such that the body reacted quite differently to normal," he said. "It makes you very slow, you calculate movements to conserve your energy. When you're very starved, your power of speech is limited. If you talk, tears start running involuntarily so you learn to speak in sound bites."

He received permanent damage to his hip joint a guard struck him with his rifle.

"We were being taken out to be shot. Usually before execution one person was chosen to traumatise the others and his skull was smashed," a co-worker recalled Mr Halter was about to be struck. "The man yelled, 'Get down, move,' and ... the butt of the rifle slid down and hit me on the hip." He escaped being shot.

On 13 February 1945, the Allied bombing of Dresden began and the factory was damaged beyond repair. Mr Halter escaped Nazi control as they



Women outside the Ford factory in Cologne where they were used as forced labour by the Nazis

out, he was quickly herded with hundreds of other Jews into the Lodz ghetto where he worked in a metal factory. "They employed children in the munitions factories because of their dexterity," he said.

When the ghetto was "liquidated" in 1944, Mr Halter was on the last transport train to Auschwitz. He and 500 others from his factory escaped death because they were workers. More than 2,000 others were gassed within hours of arrival.

Assigned to work in a munitions factory, they arrived in Dresden in November 1944. The regime was brutal.

"People have no understanding of what the starvation was like. They think it was a

were being marched to Theresienstadt, the German show concentration camp in Czechoslovakia.

Now aged 70, he said the memory of the war was "indelibly ingrained". He has met with the Foreign Office to seek advice on how they can proceed with their case. Previous attempts to raise the issue in the Fifties went nowhere, but they are determined now.

"What hurts and insults us is the fact that the SS troops who guarded and tortured us and murdered with impunity, now receive a good pension and we, who were compelled to slave labour under them ... have not yet been compensated," he said.

Congratulations. You've just spotted a low cost personal loan.

| AMOUNT OF LOAN | APR | 36 MONTHLY REPAYMENTS | TOTAL PAYABLE |
|----------------|-------|-----------------------|---------------|
| £1,000 | 13.9% | £101.33 | £3,647.88 |
| £5,000 | 12.9% | £199.86 | £7,187.76 |

Example: Loans over 36 months without insurance protection. Rates correct as 16th February 1998.

0181 680 9966 LONDON **0161 831 9966 MANCHESTER** **0141 248 9966 GLASGOW**

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. www.directline.co.uk Please quote ref. IND29

Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SH. You must be aged 22 or over. Loans from £1,000 to £15,000, subject to status. Written quotations on request. Calls recorded and randomly monitored. Direct Line and the red phone are trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc, used with its permission.

A National
Training Award
shows you're
a successful
business
built on
well-trained
people with
proven benefits
to your...



Last year 92 companies were recognised for achieving business goals by unlocking the potential of their staff. To enter this year, check your phone book and call your local TEC/LEC (England & Scotland), Management Learning Resources (Wales) or the Training and Employment Agency (Northern Ireland).

CBI THE TIMES D/EE

Stand out from the crowd with a National Training Award.

bottom line.

Anarch
as Col
party a
take to

Mayoral
puts the
back into

PRIME
where you
quality heal
Call 081

Anarchy reigns as Cologne's party animals take to streets

By Imre Karacs
in Cologne

SCREAMING hordes of children, inebriated civil servants in multi-coloured costumes, and armies of revellers kitted out in Napoleonic uniforms are girding their loins for one final push. Today is Rosenmontag, the last of the "crazy days", the climax of a season of orgies which punctuates the passing of years in the Rhineland.

Carnival is upon us, a time when noise is not only allowed but obligatory, when pedestrians resolve to at least try to ignore red lights, and urinating in public becomes a touching expression of comradeship. Every social convention is turned upside down. There is even a moment in the carefully choreographed hiatus when the women storm the town hall, seize power and cut off the men's ties. How Freudian can you get?

Since last Thursday, the start of the "crazy days", the streets have been overflowing with jolly bank clerks, cabinet ministers have been performing headstands for the benefit of the cameras, and shopkeepers have covered their stern faces

with red paint. Today the partying and the adultery - which tradition and the law dictate is a forgivable sin if committed during carnival - will all come to an end. The edifice of order, smashed to oblivion in five fleeting days, will be rebuilt brick by brick. Just try putting on your washing machine after 10pm tomorrow.

But until the last float in a four-mile procession passes the town hall this afternoon, anarchy reigns. About a million people will teeter along the route, stuffing themselves with Wurst and guzzling litres of the local beer. "Kamelle. Kamelle," shout the children, waiting for the heavens to open up, showering them with chocolate bars and toffee. Cologne's businesses are spending more than DM1bn on "Kamelle" - "sweets" in the Rhenish dialect.

The townsfolk have been hinging their way to Lent in this manner since 1341. Unlike the rest of Catholic Germany, where the various guises of the religious festival - *Karneval, Faschnacht* or *Fasching* - have retained some of their Christian spirit, Cologne has always preferred to go back to its pagan roots. And while other cities along the



Crazy hazy days: Revelers wearing clown costumes taking in the carnival atmosphere in Düsseldorf's Königsallee shopping street

Photograph: Gero Breloer/AFP

Rhine have tried to surpass Cologne in vulgarity, none have come close. Düsseldorf, it is true, scored in shock value this year by erecting a pair of giant breasts on a float, but its well-manicured upper class revellers are no match for the plebeian masses that file past Cologne's celebrated cathedral.

"All one can see is workers with

filthy overalls, contorted masks and long hair; farmers in dirty costumes, repulsive nuns, and hags in old-fashioned clothes," observed a Bavarian courtier in 1802. "One can perceive, on these masked persons alone, to what depths tastes and education in Cologne have sunk."

The Bavarian's misgivings were shared by the French occupiers, who

banned carnival for four years. In 1799, it was allowed again, only to be forbidden by the Prussians who followed in Napoleon's footsteps. It was exactly 175 years ago that the city fathers finally persuaded the Prussian masters to sanction a procession on Rose Monday.

Ever since then, the celebrations have followed the same rules, en-

forced by a committee of local business leaders. And because of Cologne's history of occupations, there has always been an anti-authoritarian streak in the festivities.

The season begins on 11 November, with organisers devoting 10 weeks of their life to designing costumes and floats, and rehearsing raunchy show-stoppers.

Everything, as you might expect, runs like clockwork. As the procession turns the last corner at four o'clock sharp, the road-sweepers are already poised with their brooms. Within a few hours, the detritus is cleared up, the drunks stagger home and shop assistants wipe away their smiles. Tomorrow, normal service resumes.

Mayoral battle puts the vice back into Miami

By Phil Davison
in Miami

HOLLYWOOD might call it *Miami Vice*, the *Real-Life Sequel*. Just as the city was starting to recover from highly publicised tourist murders and pulling back from the brink of bankruptcy, it has been torn apart by a ferocious row about corruption.

Miami mayor Xavier Suarez, a Cuban-American sometimes known as Hurricane Xavier or Mayor Loco (the Crazy Mayor) for his gung-ho style, won last November's mayoral election. The man he beat, fellow Cuban exile Joe Carollo, cried fraud, the case went to trial and Cuban-Americans went to war.

Mr Carollo, the incumbent since 1993, finished well ahead of Mr Suarez, mayor from 1985-93, but fell 155 votes short of the 50 per cent required to avoid a run-off. In the run-off nine days later, Mr Suarez won. On both days, absentee ballots swung the vote in Mr Suarez's favour.

For the past two weeks, Miami judge Thomas Wilson, who can decide whether to re-run the election or hand it to Mr Carollo, has heard daily evidence that Suarez aides launched a campaign, particularly in the city's "Little Havana" area of Cuban-Americans, to capture or fake absentee ballots. Manuel Yip, who voted for Mr Suarez, was found to have been dead for four years. A basketball coach with the Suarez campaign described how he handed out \$10 to poor residents of the Over-town black ghetto to get their vote. A 92-year-old Cuban exile, Alberto Russi, persuaded more than 90 of his domino partners in Little Havana to post fake absentee ballots. More than 100 convicted felons voted, which is illegal.

Even before the trial, Mr Suarez had got off to a bad start. He tried to sack popular police chief Donald Warshaw, a white non-Cuban, and replace him with a Cuban-American. Mr Warshaw refused to go and, backed by non-Cubans, won the showdown.

Then the mayor showed up alone, shortly before midnight, at the home of a middle-aged woman who had written him a critical letter. "He looked mad, really, really mad," said Edna Benson. She grabbed her 38-revolver, loaded with hollow-point bullets, and told him to go away. He did.

Later, upset by daily criticism from the local newspaper, the *Miami Herald*, Mr Suarez decided that a telephoned threat to pull all city advertising might shut them up. Unfortunately, the *Herald* taped the call and broadcast it on local television. "Politically, it wasn't a bright thing to do," he conceded later.

But it was a nationally seen report by the CBS 60 Minutes programme last week that really stirred things up. Commenting on the alleged voter frauds, Florida professor Dario Moreno, himself a Cuban-American, described Miami as "almost a Third World banana republic", and said that Cuban exiles had "perfected fraud to a fine art".

Many of his fellow Cuban-Americans were outraged, calling him a "sell-out Cuban". Some tried to have him kicked out of Florida International University. Others support him, saying Cuban exiles should stop name-calling and focus on the corruption. The feud fills local airwaves and newspaper letter columns.

In his *Miami Herald* column, best-selling novelist Carl Hiaasen, author of *Siripetase*, is having a field day. Commenting on the re-election of a Suarez protege, 35-year-old Cuban-American Humberto Hernandez, to the city council, Mr Hiaasen noted that Mr Hernandez was currently under indictment on 23 counts of various banking and mortgage frauds and money laundering.

"In most law-abiding American cities, Hernandez wouldn't have had the nerve to run for re-election - or, at the very least, he would have been jeered out of the race," wrote Mr Hiaasen. "In Miami, naturally, he won by a landslide."

Hindu party ousted

India's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was ousted from power in the northern Uttar Pradesh state in the midst of national elections.

Atal Behari Vajpayee, the BJP's candidate for prime minister, began a fast-unto-death to press for the dismissal of the state governor, Romesh Bhandari, saying that he helped defectors from the party to win power without proof of legislative support.

— Reuters, New Delhi

CIA admits Cuba error

The CIA, in a report kept secret for 36 years, blamed its own arrogance, ignorance and incompetence for the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961, the *New York Times* said. The inquiry was at last released last week under the US Freedom of Information Act to the National Security Archive, a non-profit group that collects and publishes declassified government reports.

— Reuters, New York

Sex horror suspect dies

An elderly Italian farmer who had been ordered to stand trial over a series of grisly sexual killings known as the "Monster of Florence" murders died, police said. Pietro Pacciani, 73, was originally convicted in 1994 of the killings and then acquitted in what remains one of Italy's most sensational criminal mysteries. Initial reports said he appeared to have suffered a heart attack.

— Reuters, Florence

Papal vision of future

Pope John Paul, addressing a new batch of cardinals who eventually will choose his successor, said he hoped the third millennium of Christianity would launch a "springtime of hope" for humanity.

The 77-year-old Pope presided at a solemn Mass held in St Peter's Square to give the rings of office to 19 of the 22 cardinals that he elevated to the high rank at a ceremony on Saturday.

— Reuters, Rome

| | |
|--------|-----------|
| Gran | 74 miles |
| Paul | 128 miles |
| Dad | 51 miles |
| Hamish | 638 miles |
| Lisa | 249 miles |

We promise you big savings on your UK long distance calls.

When your nearest and dearest live at the other end of the country, what do you do? You call them of course. Now you can chat away for much less.

With Cable & Wireless UK-Call, you enjoy savings of 25% during the evening, Monday to Friday on a five minute national call (compared to BT's basic rate).

If you like a good gossip late in the evening, our special night-time rate, between 10pm

and 8am, Monday to Friday, saves you 43%.

And don't forget on Saturdays, until the end of March 1998, no UK long distance call will cost you more than 50p. Also, you'll automatically receive at least 100 free minutes of local evening calls every month. (All this for a quarterly fee of £3.75).

To find out how much you could save, ring us now on FreeCall 0500 500 366, quoting RINDMW.



CABLE & WIRELESS
What can we do for you?

Savings correct at 15.1.98, compared against BT's basic rate for a 5 minute weekday evening call unless otherwise stated. Application subject to terms. To improve our service, we may occasionally monitor or record your telephone calls to and from Cable & Wireless.

Congratulations
You've just
potted a low cost
personal loan

PRIME HEALTH.
Where you pay less for
quality health insurance.

Call 0800 77 99 55
to find out more.

Prime Health

Ref M10533NG

As a deal over the United Nations weapons inspectors takes shape between Saddam Hussein and Jordan fury over first death in confrontation

By Patrick Cockburn
in Ma'an, south Jordan

The first and so far only person to die as a direct result of the confrontation between Iraq and the US was shot dead in a demonstration in the desert town of Ma'an, south Jordan. He was Mohammed Abdullah al-Kateb, a 22-year-old student, killed by a bullet in the heart as he demonstrated in favour of Iraq near the main mosque in Ma'an on Friday.

His death led to two days of rioting during which townspeople used guns and fought off police to rescue Mr Kateb's body from the local hospital and carry it through the streets. A further 20 people were injured. During a visit, King Hussein said he would not tolerate violence and lamented that the riots should have started "in Ma'an, which was the town where the Kingdom [of Jordan] was founded".

By yesterday the army and police had declared a curfew. Bedouin soldiers had parked a truck mounting a heavy machine gun across the main entrance to Ma'an and were letting nobody through. "We

are looking for arms and anybody who took part in the demonstrations," said a soldier.

To prevent news of the riots spreading, the government shut the local telephone system. At another checkpoint, police, backed by an armoured car, said they were on the lookout for journalists, either foreign or Jordanian, and were under orders to turn them back. As we spoke, the hand radio of one policeman announced that some journalists had been seen "talking to the people" and that this was to be prevented.

Despite the attempt to create a news blackout, the course of the riots in the Jordanian heartland appears clear. On Friday Leith Shubellat, president of the Jordanian Engineers' Association, a major opposition figure known for his pro-Iraqi sympathies, gave a sermon in the mosque in Ma'an.

Local people say that at a rally attended by about 150 people afterwards, police opened fire with tear gas and the demonstrators responded with stones. As the clashes escalated, police and rioters used guns and Mr Kateb was shot through the heart from be-

hind, according to a doctor who saw his body in the hospital. Nayif Abu Haleh, an MP who was leading the rally, told a Jordanian newspaper it was peaceful "but suddenly the police started throwing tear gas and shooting with live ammunition".

The riots are serious because they took place among Jordanians in an area traditionally loyal to the Hashemite monarchy and a recruiting ground for the army and police. They are also the type of outburst every Arab ruler fears if there is a second round to the Gulf war. Within hours of the shooting of Mr Kateb the streets of Ma'an looked like a West Bank town during fighting between Israelis and Palestinians.

Tyres were burning and streets were blocked by stones. Young stone-throwers wrapped their head-dresses around their faces to prevent recognition. On Saturday four policemen were hospitalised after a gun battle.

At the same time the relatives of Mr Kateb stormed the hospital where his body had been taken and took it away for burial. When King Hussein ar-

rived later, he said: "Tribal leaders are not able to control some of the people who carry machine-guns."

He warned that if there was a US military strike on Iraq, half a million Iraqi refugees might come to Jordan. He said that Israel might also push Palestinians from the West Bank into Jordan. Palestinians in Jordan generally feel too vulnerable to demonstrate. But Jordanians, particularly from the south of the country, have done so several times in the past 10 years.

In 1996 a rise in the price of bread led to severe rioting in Karak, a hill-top town north of Ma'an.

The government's immediate reaction to the riots was to arrest Mr Shubellat and an unknown number of local people. One man said that many students and teachers had been put in jail, though he admitted that his information was sketchy. Abdul Salam al Majali, the Prime Minister, said a state of emergency may be imposed. Describing what happened as a "shameful act", King Hussein warned of the vulnerability of Jordan, caught as it is between Israel and Iraq.



Up in arms: A protester with a tear-gas gun seized from police after a pro-Iraqi march in Ma'an, Jordan. Photograph: Reuters

EU ministers relegate stand-off to bottom of talks agenda

By Steve Crawshaw
in Brussels

EUROPEAN foreign ministers meet in Brussels today for key talks on the most important foreign-policy issues facing the European Union. Given the circumstances, including the last-ditch attempts yesterday to find a compromise solution even as war continues to loom, one might assume that the Iraq crisis would dominate the agenda. One would be wrong.

Iraq is seventh out of eight items on the running order, barely a postscript to be discussed "over lunch". South Africa, Switzerland, China and Iran all figure more prominently.

Britain, which holds the presidency of the Union until June, has not encouraged the EU to get involved. Indeed, it takes scant notice of the views of its European partners. During recent shuttle diplomacy to the Gulf, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, emphasised that he only represented Britain. His key telephone calls are to the US secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, not to Brussels, Paris or Bonn.

All of which has caused some restlessness in Europe. The Dutch foreign minister, Hans van Mierlo, talked of Britain's "big problems" in meeting its obligations as an EU member, and complained that Britain

was "trying to keep the EU on the outside". French diplomats complain: "Why hasn't Tony Blair discussed things with the 15? It would have been difficult [to find a joint solution], but one could have tried."

None the less, Dutch diplomats insist that Mr van Mierlo was making a general point, affecting France as well as the UK. "Britain has two hats and two sets of responsibilities. It's not always easy to distinguish which hat a country is wearing. Two countries [Britain and France] are permanent members of the Security Council and also sometimes presidents of the EU. What he was trying to say is that there is always a dilemma when that happens. It was not meant as a criticism of the UK."

The French have been outspokenly at odds with Britain. In practice, however, this has been a national rather than a European viewpoint. A front-page headline in *Le Monde* last week talked of France "leading a final battle" to avoid war. The paper argued: "France is the only Western country to be directly involved in seeking a peaceful solution." Even the French, while refusing to contemplate the possibility of military action, acknowledge that other European countries will probably go along with it, if push comes to shove. For the moment, Britain is, on this side of the

Atlantic, virtually being allowed to run the show.

Theoretically, Europe is working towards a common foreign policy. Yugoslavia was a high priority for the EU, and a diplomatic disaster, not least because of the divisions within the Union. But Yugoslavia was, as diplomats note, "on our doorstep", and therefore had to be confronted, at least in theory. The complexities of Iraq are further away, thus offering a useful alibi for European failure to have an agreed view. Britain and France, who both still like to think of themselves as global movers and shakers, are outspoken in their respective views. Others

believe, as one diplomat acknowledged, that "they can afford to wash their hands".

Germany, whose constitution bars it from involvement in military adventures abroad, has been mostly supportive of Britain - emphasising the need to seek a diplomatic solution, but also accepting the possibility of military action, if other options fail. At today's meeting, there will be "strong support for continuing diplomatic efforts", which sounds like *Elysée* speak. But the Italians, for example, are notably reluctant to criticise the tough British stance. "This is a question of *braccia di ferro*," one Italian diplomat noted -

"iron-arm", meaning the test of strength where the weaker person's arm is forced down to the table.

There is unanimity that Saddam Hussein must comply with UN resolutions, but on the question of military force, views are more muddled.

If diplomatic pressures, including yesterday's visit to Baghdad by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, force Saddam Hussein to back down, France will claim credit for its last-minute brokering. Britain will continue to insist that only the threat of force persuaded Saddam to come to his senses. Meanwhile, the EU as a single entity remains clearly, perhaps even humbly, on the sidelines.

NEWS SPORT WHAT'S ON FUN KNOWLEDGE MONEY SHOPPING TALK INTERNET

Free Internet trial
5 free E-Mail addresses
Free 10 mb of web space
Free chatrooms
Free forums

A free Internet package that will get everyone talking.

Money TALK
News SPORT
Education internet
What's new Business
SHOPPING What's On
Travel Knowledge
Life FUN

Try LineOne and the Internet FREE. Call 0800 111 210

It's what you want to know

MJN Files | Customers | Technology | Service | Support

Latest Processor Speed

New Intel Pentium® II Processor Based Systems

Simply The Best Money Can Buy

Take a closer look at the amazing specifications of the new MJN systems based on Intel's fastest Pentium® II processors. These systems are unbeatable for specification, performance and price and are available on Interest Free Credit for a limited period. Order any of these systems early and get the superb Epson 600 1400dpi Inkjet colour printer FREE.

MJN 300-2

- Intel 300MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 128Mb SDRAM
- 8.4Gb ultra ATA hard drive
- 8Mb AGP x2 ATI Rage Pro (Expert @ Work) 3D graphics controller
- PC-TV system with Teletext and video capture
- 56K Rockwell flash upgradeable voice modem
- Full Videophone including COLOUR Video Camera
- 32 speed MAX CD-ROM drive
- 15" SVGA 0.28dp screen (1.7" optional)
- Creative Labs 3D waveable sound
- 512K pipeline burst cache
- Voice recognition with IBM Simply Speaking GOLD software
- MJN ATX system with Intel 440LX PC97 chipset
- Premium speaker system (not shown), headset microphone and joystick
- Windows 95, and Lotus SmartSuite '97
- All standard features including floppy drive, mouse, keyboard, and standard ports
- FREE Epson 600 Colour printer (limited offer)

£1695 inc.VAT Model 851

MJN 333-2

- Intel 333MHz Pentium® II Processor
- 128Mb SDRAM
- 8.4Gb ultra ATA hard drive
- 8Mb AGP x2 ATI Rage Pro (Expert @ Work) 3D graphics controller
- PC-TV system with Teletext and video capture
- 56K Rockwell flash upgradeable voice modem
- Full Videophone including COLOUR Video Camera
- 32 speed MAX CD-ROM drive
- 17" SVGA 0.28dp screen
- Creative Labs 3D waveable sound
- 512K pipeline burst cache
- Voice recognition with IBM Simply Speaking GOLD software
- MJN ATX system with Intel 440LX PC97 chipset
- Executive subwoofer speaker system, headset microphone and joystick
- Windows 95 and Lotus SmartSuite '97
- All standard features including floppy drive, mouse, keyboard, and standard ports
- FREE Epson 600 Colour printer (limited offer)

£1995 inc.VAT Model 852

£2344.13 inc.VAT Model 853

FREE Printer

Epson Stylus 600 Colour Printer

This is the best 1400 dpi colour printer with Photo real colour printing and laser sharp image quality. Normal price £222. Offer limited to the 200 orders only.

Buy NOW... Pay August '98 0% APR

Interest Free Credit

Example: MJN 300-2. Pay just £202.10 deposit and then nothing for 8 months. After 8 months pay the rest. Total price = cash price = £1695 + £25 delivery + VAT = £2021. APR 0% only if fully repaid within 8 months. Finance is subject to status. Written details available on request.

Tel: 01282 777 555

Telephone Sales Lines Open Mon - Fri 9.30am - 7.00pm, Sat 9.00am - 3.00pm

MJN
The right choice

هللا من الاصل

Kofi Annan, Iraqis are still living with the consequences of a clash between their leader and America

A strange day in barefoot Baghdad

By Robert Fisk
in Baghdad

HE CAME at us through the traffic, hanging his tiny fist on the side of our car. He could have been no more than four years old, barefoot and dressed in a worn oversized leather jacket with a dozen holes ripped into it. "Give me money," he shrieked, banging the door again, staring at me through the glass and wrinkling his eyes to imitate tears. Or was it imitation?

On the pavement an hour later, almost on the banks of the Tigris, three more children attacked, older this time, grabbing at our coats, screaming "money" until we gave them half a dollar; they grabbed our bags for more until we physically pushed them from us, cursing them - heaven help us - for their assault.

Would Madeleine Albright, I wonder, have given them a cent? Or would she have lectured them on the inequities of their leader and the need for UN sanctions, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the immorality of weapons of mass destruction (those, at least, in Iraqi hands, the others being apparently less dangerous).

It was a strange old day in Baghdad yesterday, one of those mild winter afternoons along the Tigris - dark Mediterranean blue under the February sun - that should presage peace rather than war. Kofi Annan appeared to be promising us the earth, or promising Saddam a clearer definition of UN resolution 687 in return for letting the UN's inspectors into his palaces, but

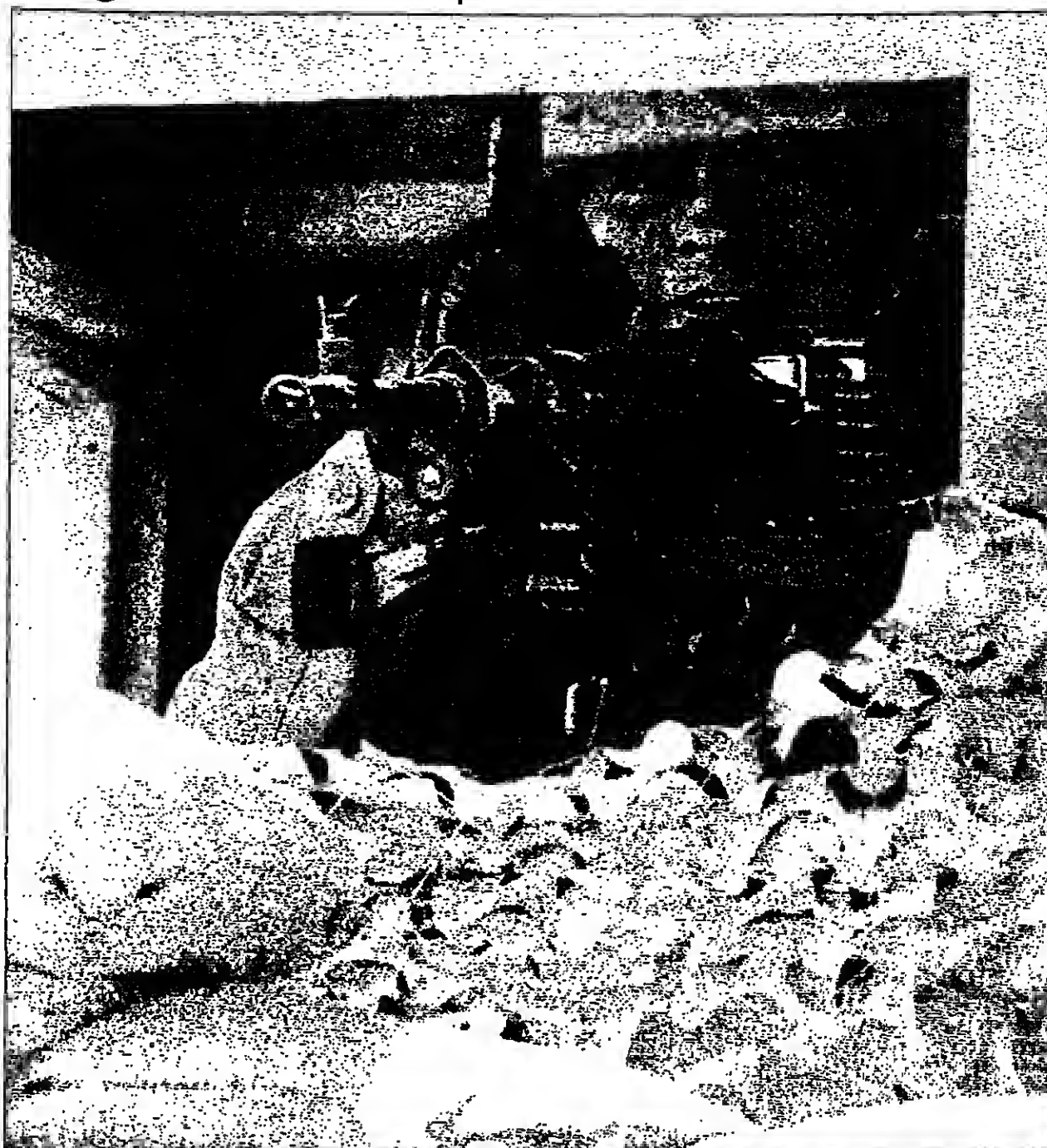
the Iraqis, almost wearily, accepted the possibility of yet another "Allied" attack. The anti-aircraft guns were back on the usual ministry roofs and a bunch of old American-made Kuwaiti armour - rusting relics from the 1990 attempt to turn the emirate into Iraq's 13th province - was being trucked up a highway out of town.

Just outside Abu Ghoraib, groups of young men - 30 or 40 strong but thin and ungainly figures in old jeans and ill-fitting shirts - stood to attention in front of smartly dressed soldiers in khaki and black berets.

Saddam's would-be volunteers were being taught how to dress to attention, but they were no Dad's army, more like Dad's kids, a rag-tag bunch of youths listening earnestly to their military commanders in case Iraq's third major war in two decades was to begin in a few days' time.

What the West can do from the air can still be seen on the highway west of Baghdad. If the bridges have been repaired, the road surface is still slashed with shrapnel scars where American and British aircrafts thought they were bombing Scud missile trucks in 1991. In fact, they were attacking petrol tankers, often driven by Jordanians. It is still a lonely journey to Baghdad over the desert highway - I passed no more than 20 old lorries in four hours' driving - and Baghdad presents an odd picture of a capital supposedly threatening "the whole world".

Indeed, as I drove past the miles of abandoned trains in the great railway yards outside



A US soldier on guard yesterday at a Kuwaiti army air-base where Patriot missile launchers are held. Photograph: Reuters

Baghdad and the empty stations, the words of Messrs Clinton and Blair kept coming back to me. President Clinton called Saddam a "predator of the 21st century" at the Pentagon last week - few Kuwaitis would disagree - but Baghdad is a city gone to seed, its people impoverished, its children begging in the streets, grass growing through cracks in its underpasses and pavements. Even the giant street paintings of Saddam Hussein, the great father-figure himself, have faded in the sun of seven summers.

It is a place of lost wealth, courtesy of UN sanctions. And the Iraqis are people living in the ruins of empire, the only palaces still fit for kings owned by the man who has compared himself to Nebuchadnezzar and who objects - very strongly indeed, as we all know - to the UN inspectors turning up at midnight in their jeans and baseball hats to check beneath the four-posters.

Even the old marble entrance floor of the Al-Rashid hotel - which depicts President George Bush in a mosaic - has been partly worn away. So, as we drove through the cold grey-brown Iraqi desert yesterday, it was difficult to decide which world we were living in. As our four-wheel-drive hummed along the highway, Radio Monte Carlo informed us of the latest New York Times prediction of "massive raids" in the event of Saddam's non-compliance with weapons inspection teams, or a possible 1,500 dead.

So who would be making up the "collateral damage" next time? The Iraqi peasant in his red checkered headscarf trying to kick-start his battered Nissan on the edge of Baghdad, not far from an anti-aircraft battery? The kids who begged us for Iraqi dinars? Or would it include the moustachioed waiter who served us Cola last night and who smiled weakly at us, partly I suspect in embarrassment, and admitted: "I would like to go to America."

Cook stands apart from hawkish US

By Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

ROBIN COOK yesterday exposed the divisions between Britain and the United States by refusing to rule out more diplomatic efforts to avert war against Iraq, while Washington was adopting a more hawkish approach to the Kofi Annan peace mission.

Britain is expected to call for more time to reach a diplomatic solution today when the United Nations Secretary-General reports back to the Security Council, although the US could press for action after the failure to get Saddam Hussein to sign any agreement.

The Foreign Secretary's determination to exhaust diplomatic efforts before resorting to force also showed up the differences within the Government in spite of repeated denials.

Mr Cook said that the UN Secretary-General would be the "last serious envoy" to visit Baghdad in the crisis, but left open the possibility of more diplomatic efforts. "Last chance is a very big phrase. I wouldn't wish to say when Kofi Annan comes back that is it," Mr Cook said on BBC radio.

But George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, echoed the more hawkish US and Downing Street line on GMTV. "Time is running out for Saddam and obviously this is a make-or-break meeting," he said.

The Independent has learnt that the differences go beyond Mr Cook to the heart of the Foreign Office over Tony Blair's unequivocal support for Bill Clinton's foreign policy on Iraq. A senior government source said: "It is not about personalities. It is not a split between Robin and the Prime Minister. Robin is reflecting the view in the Foreign Office. There is a difference between the Foreign Office and No 10, but it's mainly about the nuances."

The Foreign Office is anxious about the disastrous effects a war with Iraq will have on Britain's relations in the Gulf region. Some of Britain's friends, including Saudi Arabia, with whom Britain has multi-billion pound arms contracts, have refused to allow their air bases to be used this time for strikes on Iraq by Allied forces, although they were used in the Gulf war.

Mr Cook also suggested that he would not object to President Saddam tying "huttons and bows" to the deal, providing the bottom line was agreed in writing to allow UNSCOM to get back to work in stopping him developing biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction.

"If Saddam negotiates for huttons and bows to be tied around that package that is something we can live with. I am myself not particularly fussed with where the commas go."

Mr Cook said Mr Annan had scope to reach a deal within the bottom line agreed by the five permanent members of the security council that UNSCOM should be able to return to its work. "The central point is that UNSCOM has control of its operations, not Saddam," he said.

He denied that there were differences between himself and Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, over a plan to reach a compromise by allowing UNSCOM inspection teams to be accompanied by diplomats, a so-called "UNSCOM-plus suits" option. "Our thinking is very much the same. It is claimed that she is against UNSCOM plus. I think it was Madeleine who invented the phrase 'UNSCOM plus'. What we can't settle for is UNSCOM minus," he said.

Mr Blair spoke to Mr Annan by telephone on Saturday night urging him to impress on President Saddam "the importance of Iraq being brought back into line" with UN security council resolutions to destroy his weapons of mass destruction.

INDEPENDENT
INDEPENDENT

£10 Conran lunch

The Independent and Independent on Sunday in association with Terence Conran are delighted to offer readers the opportunity to enjoy lunch or early evening supper at six of London's top restaurants throughout January and February for £10

From Monday, January 5th until Saturday February 28th, the following establishments are offering readers a two course lunch or early evening supper for just £10 per person.

How to Book

To participate in the offer simply collect one token (tokens will be printed every day until Saturday February 28th) and then telephone the restaurant of your choice quoting yourself as an Independent diner. On your arrival at the restaurant you should present your token in order to qualify for the offer. Each token is valid for a complete table booking. The tokens will be valid for one week only, and will be dated accordingly. To continue to participate in the offer, simply collect a token from the week in which you wish to dine. Pre-booking is essential and all bookings are subject to availability.

A special discount is available on selected items in the Bluebird and Le Pont de la Tour shops on presentation of the token.



MEZZO

QUAGLINO'S

ZINC
BAR • GRILL



INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT

Valid between Saturday February 21st and Friday February 27th

Name _____

Address _____

This voucher entitles the holder and all members of their party to participate in The Independent/Conran Restaurants £10 lunch offer

The Independent offer is available at the following restaurants:

Bluebird 350 King's Road, London, SW3 5UJ
0171 559 1000
Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm - 7pm

Blue Print Café The Design Museum, 28 Shad Thames, London, SE1 2YE
0171 378 7031
Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm - 7pm

Le Pont de la Tour Bar & Grill 36d Shad Thames, London, SE1 2YE
0171 403 8403
Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm - 7pm

Mezzo 100 Wardour Street, London, W1V 3LE
0171 314 4000
Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 6pm - 7pm
closed Saturday lunchtime, open Sunday 12pm - 4pm

Quaglino's 16 Bury Street, St James's, London, SW1Y 6AL
0171 930 0767
Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Zinc Bar & Grill 21 Heddon Street, London, W1R 7LF
0171 255 8899
The special 3 course menu is available between 12noon and 7pm between Monday and Wednesday the offer is extended until 11pm

The offer is available 7 days a week at all six restaurants.
* Closed from 6pm on Sunday Offer not available after 6pm on February 14

Reward yourself

6.35%

gross rate per annum*

Reward Reserve

Reward Reserve, our instant access savings account, not only offers you an attractive rate of interest but could also give you extra rewards. You can now earn interest of up to 6.35% gross p.a.*

That's because we top up the basic rate with quarterly interest rate rewards, providing you've made no more than one withdrawal each quarter. And, if you make no more than three withdrawals a year,

we'll go a step further and add an extra annual interest reward.

You can open a Reward Reserve account with a minimum deposit of £2,000. To find out more, call us on the number below or pop into any NatWest branch.

Isn't it time to reward yourself?

Call 0800 200 400

MON TO FRI 8.00am TO 8.00pm SAT 9.00am TO 6.00pm

NatWest
More than just a bank

*The gross rate includes quarterly interest rewards of 1.5% gross per annum and an annual interest reward of 0.5% gross per annum on balances of £10,000+. A balance of £2,000 - £9,999 will earn interest of 6.10% gross per annum including quarterly and annual interest rewards. Credit interest and quarterly interest reward interest is paid quarterly. All rates are subject to variation. Where appropriate, lower rate (currently 20%) will be deducted at source from the interest paid (which may be reclaimed by resident non-taxpayers). Otherwise, (for example, subject to the required registration form), interest will be paid gross. The gross rate is the rate before deducting income tax. We may monitor and record your phone calls with us in order to maintain and improve our service. NatWest Westminster Bank Plc, Registered Office: 41 Lombury, London EC2P 2BP. Registered Number: 929027. England. Reg No. 17282

Freak power failure puts Auckland out of business

By James Gray of Reuters
in Auckland

THE New Zealand power company Mercury Energy said at the weekend that it expected the restoration of normal electricity supplies to central Auckland to take more than a week, after a freak power crisis paralysed the central business district.

Hundreds of businesses are preparing to shut down for the next week and thousands of residents are leaving their homes after the fourth - and final - major power cable supplying the inner city failed on Friday night.

Mercury said that only 10 per cent of the central city will have power this week, leaving only emergency services and hospitals supplied with mains electricity. Repair crews were, it said, working around the clock, but only one of the four collapsed cables would be fixed by the weekend.

"It will bring back some

supplies to the CBD. It will not be a normal supply. We will not have a normal supply until at least two more cables are fixed. Early in the following week is the best estimate," said Richard Gibbons, Mercury's general manager of networks.

He said people in the affected area who had power were likely to lose it and those without should not expect it to return for up to seven days. Businesses have been told to close for a week or relocate if they do not have their own power generators, and residents have been told to find alternative accommodation.

The Prime Minister, Jenny Shipley, said that at this stage the government was not getting involved. "It is a contractual matter between the supply authority and businesses in the downtown area," she told Television New Zealand, which was able to stay on air thanks to diesel-powered generators.

She said the government's role in the crisis may be in the form of an inquiry. "We need to know how this occurred, and we need to know whether there is anything we can do to avoid it happening again." It was unclear how many businesses would open in Auckland today.

Michael Jacob, the manager of Power Hire Generators, said his entire stock of more than 100 generators had been hired or sold. The Coopers & Lybrand building, Auckland's largest central office block, was shutting down for the week.

Also closing were Auckland University, where 12,500 students had been expected to attend Enrolment Week over the next few days, and the Auckland High and District Courts.

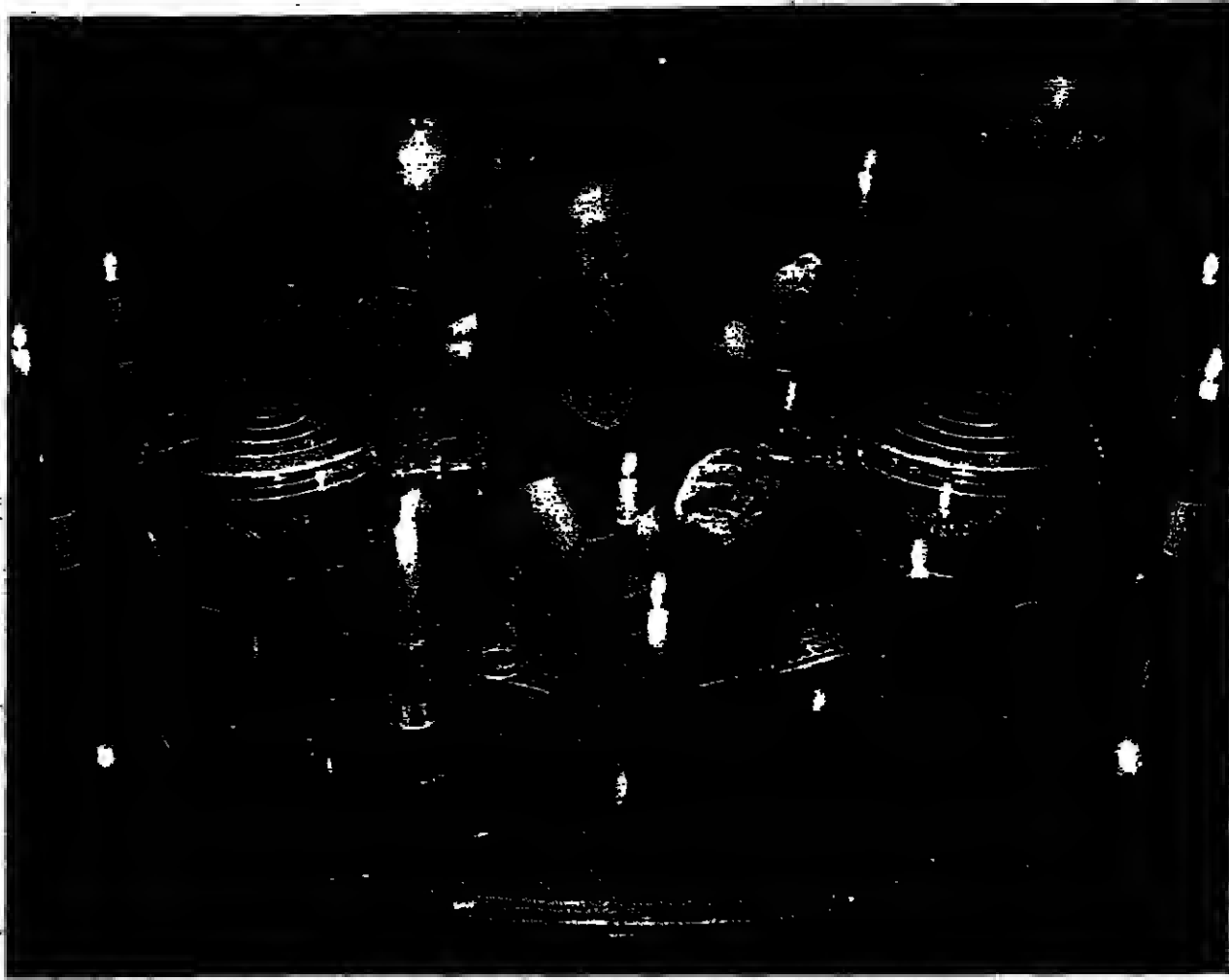
Furious retailers have called on Mercury to compensate for losses caused by the crisis. But while Mercury accepted responsibility for the power failure it denied it had scrimped on

maintenance and has refused to pay compensation unless it is shown to be negligent.

Its chief executive, Wayne Gilbert, said the CBD network's design standard was the same as for similar sized European cities. Four major cables to the district, rated at a total of 440 kilovolts of electricity, have failed over the past month. Mr Gilbert said it would be hard to determine the cause of the failures until parts of the cable were sent overseas for testing, but the long, hot summer had probably contributed.

However, Michael Barnett, head of Auckland Chamber of Commerce, said it was unacceptable that the country's commercial heart had to operate in a "Third World" environment of unreliable infrastructure.

"Irrespective of fault, business has been dealt a major blow," he added, "and in time a fair and just compensation needs to be found."



Burning up: Bar staff at the Shakespeare Tavern, Auckland, carry on working by candlelight

Photograph: Reuters

THE CORSA BREEZE
HAS SOMETHING YOU
WOULDN'T EXPECT
FROM A £9,832 CAR.
ITS £8,445 PRICE TAG.



£1,387. But not for you

£8,445

£9,120 on the road

£800

FROM VAUXHALL

PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS AND INCLUDE VAUXHALL'S RECOMMENDED ON-THE-ROAD PACKAGE £205 AND 12 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE £150. BODY SIDE PROTECTION Mouldings MAY DIFFER FROM THOSE SHOWN. *OFFER AVAILABLE ON ALL CORSA ORDERED BY 21/03/98. OFFER AVAILABLE TO PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND NON VAT REGISTERED BUSINESSES. ALL OTHER CUSTOMERS ARE EXCLUDED. DRIVERS AGED BETWEEN 17 AND 80. £100 EXCESS WILL APPLY. £150 IN FULL OFFERS SUBJECT TO STATUS, CONDITIONS AND AVAILABILITY.

Hong Kong's new warmth for Cool Britannia

Stephen Vines reports from the former colony where, post-handover, there is an insatiable appetite for all things British

THE LOWERING of the Union flag over Hong Kong has, it seems, been a boon for all things British.

"In a way it's made life much easier for us," says Christopher Hammerbeck, the executive director of the British Chamber of Commerce.

In the past, he says, "we were seen as being part of the administration" and having special privileges which had long disappeared. Now the Brits are simply foreigners, but foreigners who happen to be well dug into Hong Kong.

Trade between Britain and Hong Kong rose by 12 per cent last year, covering half a year during which Hong Kong had ceased to be under British rule.

Meanwhile there is evidence of a strong feeling of warmth for absent friends. A survey by the University of Hong Kong's Social Science Research Centre found that 63 per cent of those interviewed trusted the old colonial government, while only 52 per cent expressed trust in the new order.

This may not necessarily reflect love for the British per se; only some 30 per cent said they had faith in the British government, roughly the same number expressing faith in the Chinese government, Hong Kong's new sovereign power.

Another survey, taken a month after this one, found nearly two-thirds of those interviewed expressing the view that things have got worse since the handover. Only 4 per cent thought that things had actually got better.

Maybe the new regime needs more time to find its feet before it generates the kind of confidence which the old colonial order managed to achieve. China, the new sovereign power, needs to work even harder. Hong Kong people in trouble overseas still turn to British diplomatic missions, as opposed to their Chinese counterparts.

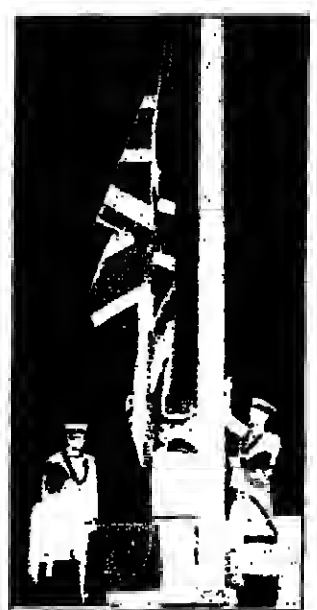
Britain, for example, is giving consular assistance to 215 Hong Kong people who have been arrested and detained abroad. This is the double the number being assisted by Chinese missions in any way. The Foreign Office says that those given help in these extreme circumstances are only the tip of the iceberg, as far more Hong Kong people request assistance on a wider range of matters.

Up to 3.5 million Hong Kong people still carry British travel documents, compared to 400,000 who have been issued with China's new Special Administrative Region passport.

The British documents only apply to those born under colonial rule and will gradually die out. The Government's plan to give full British citizenship to remaining colonial subjects specifically excludes Hong Kong British passport holders. This has caused some re-

sentment but certainly no lack of interest in things British. A recent British educational festival attracted 18,000 visitors, the highest number in four years. The British Council is experiencing a steep rise in demand for its already well-attended English language courses, and, while some 8,000 students were beavering away learning English, a UK Style exhibition, held shortly after the handover, did much to bring Mr Blair's vision of "Cool Britannia" to the former colony.

The British Council rejects any suggestion that the popularity of things British is connected with nostalgia. Renee Fok, the council's spokeswoman, insists Britain is doing well in Hong Kong because it is offering events which are relevant. "The relevance doesn't



The Union flag comes down for the final time in June last year Photograph: Reuters

disappear because Britain is no longer the colonial power."

Mr Hammerbeck says that pre-handover talk of discrimination against the British has turned out to be quite unfounded. On the contrary, he says, "people are bending over backwards to assure the British community that there is nothing to fear".

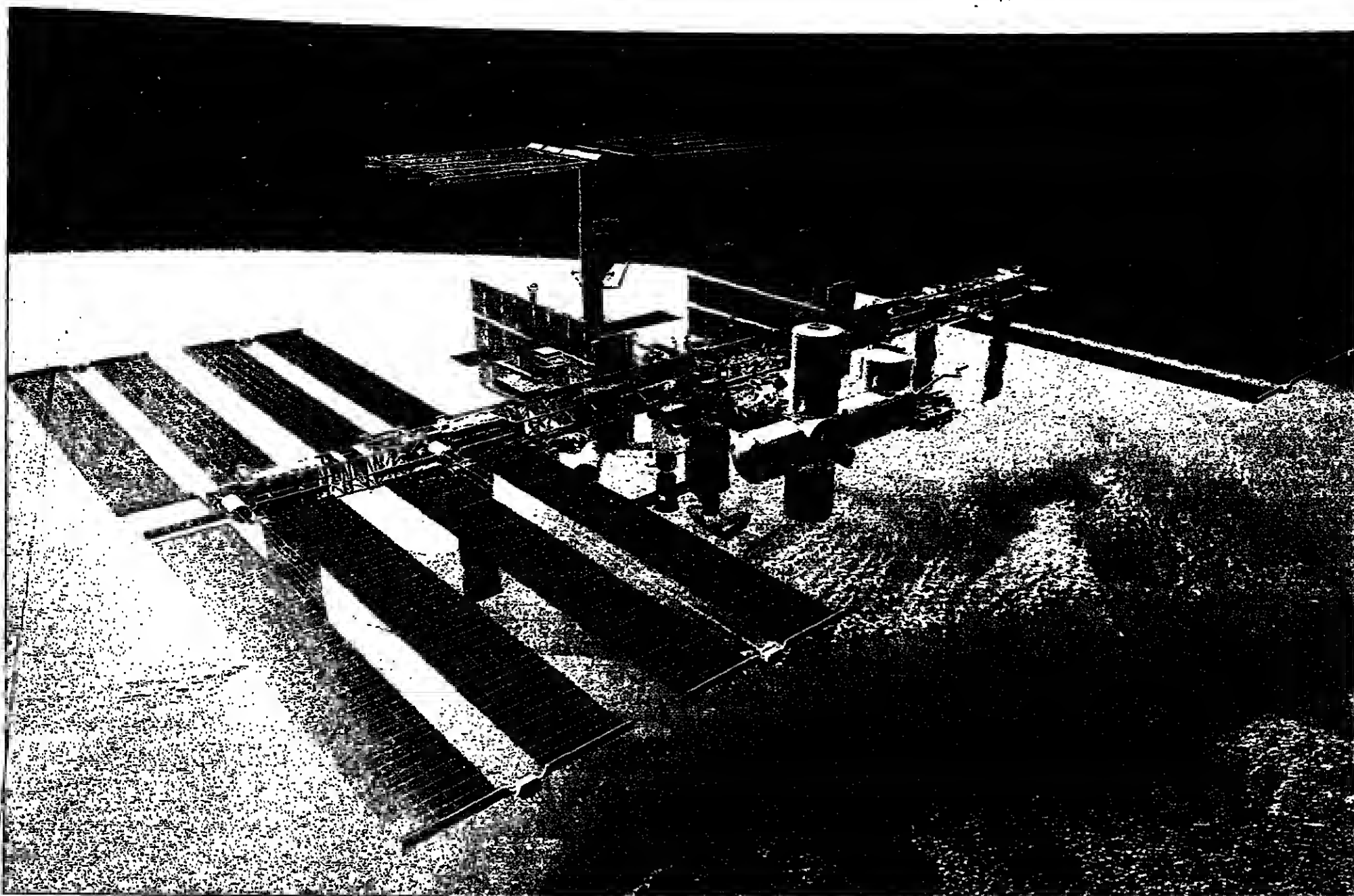
He believes that China's overwhelming aim is to maintain "business as usual". The Labour government in Britain is busy rebuilding relations with China and Peking has shown every sign of being willing to reciprocate.

Meanwhile there seems to be an insatiable appetite for British memorabilia. Hong Kong is suffering a serious coin shortage because so many people are hoarding coins with the Queen's head.

Extremely tatty pieces of government equipment stamped with the crown have sold for impressive sums at auctions and new union flags are being produced in Chinese factories to replace the sold out "genuine" colonial relics which have already been snapped up.

Handwritten text in a box: 12/23/98

2003: a space odyssey



The sky's the limit: How the International Space Station will look when it is completed. From end to end of its giant solar panels, it will be as big as two football pitches Photograph: Nasa

In five years' time, a new International Space Station is scheduled to be in orbit. Charles Arthur asks why

Most people will have heard that the *Mir* space station celebrated its 12th, and probably last, year aloft last week. What a year it was: an onboard fire, a crash with supply ship which punctured a crew module, repeated computer crashes, and bea palpitations diagnosed in one of the Russian cosmonauts.

In that context, it sounds surprising to hear that within five years, there should be a new space station aloft – as big as two football fields, weighing 450 tonnes, and containing 43,000 cubic feet of working space. It will cost more than any collaborative project ever. After the disasters on *Mir*, can they be serious?

You would think not. But the momentum behind the International Space Station project appears unstoppable. Although – or perhaps because – it is the largest and most complex multinational co-operative science engineering ever, and will cost between \$5n and \$100bn to build, launch and op-

erate for a decade, it is now seen as inevitable. (If you're keen, you can even get your International Space Station Foundation MasterCard® Credit Card, although it doesn't guarantee you a spot on board – just a nice picture on the front when you use it.) But the idea first proposed by Ronald Reagan in 1984, for an \$8bn permanent space station, is moving closer to fruition. This June, the first component of the station will be launched from a site in Baikonur, Kazakhstan.

Funded by the US and built by Russia, the control module alone weighs 20 tonnes. The news of its shipment from its Moscow factory in January moved Randy Brinkley, the International Space Station programme manager at the US space agency Nasa, to say happily: "The year of the International Space Station is 1998."

However, some people are asking why they really need another floating toolbox, and how the costs can be justified. Dale Bumpers, a Democrat Senator, attempts every year to halt funding for the ISS: "One shuttle flight to the space station will cost almost as much as the entire budget (\$454m) of the National Institute on Aging," he complained recently.

What will astronauts do on the ISS? First, they'll build it – a slow process which will require 45 assembly flights to put to-

gether its 100 components, with completion scheduled for 2003 – though even before then it will be feasible to carry out experiments, as with *Mir*.

Once finished, it will provide access for researchers ("from around the world", emphasises Nasa) to permanent, state-of-the-art laboratories in weightless conditions. Current plans are for a crew of up to seven people using five complete pressurised laboratories, with attached external sites for research. It will also be a very useful jumping-off point for human exploration of the Solar System, if that goes ahead.

So what sort of experiments do they plan? Already scientists have begun lining up their plans. One will be a cheap magnetic spectrometer that will search for antimatter – particles with the same weight, but opposite characteristics, to normal ones such as electrons and helium. Others will investigate the effect of microgravity on producing metal alloys, the ways in which cells deteriorate in bones with age, and how to produce a laser-cooled atomic clock 10 times more accurate than any built on Earth.

The ISS's governmental backers are understandably keen to get as many commercial companies as they can on board. But the evidence of years of space travel is that terrestrial companies are reluctant to put their money into pies in the sky: they

will pay to put satellites into orbit, especially if they can bounce telephone or TV signals off them, but (despite the urban myth about Teflon) very few inventions have come from space work. And very few companies rush to Nasa with ideas for experiments they want to see done in space.

Even so, backers suggest that once the ISS is built, pharmaceutical companies will be interested in growing protein crystals in microgravity than on Earth. The growing emphasis on protein-based work (as a consequence of gene research) on Earth could make that a hit, because it will let the firms make better drugs, tailored to affect proteins whose behaviour is better understood as a result of the space work.

But only the very largest drugs companies could likely afford to hire that space in space – and they are exactly the ones which will have other methods of investigating promising chemicals on the ground quickly and efficiently.

Such is the cost element that one materials scientist told the science journal *Nature* "If Rumpelstiltskin took straw into space and spun it into gold, he'd still lose money."

And the spiralling cost of the station is only part of the worry. Privately, Nasa admits that the much-delayed station – which was meant to have been completed in 1994

– may have missed its best chances. Then there is the fact that the ISS has actually been scaled down in size: President Reagan envisioned a much bigger beast than is now being transferred from the drawing boards. Shrinking budgets have hit space programs in every country, and that in turn has meant that the fabric of the station is being paid for in part by money that had been earmarked for facilities. "We'll build a house, but not have any furniture," grumbles Lawrence Young, who heads Nasa's Space Biomedical Research Institute SBRI.

Still, there are some who remain optimistic. At Boeing, Nasa's prime contractor for the ISS, Doug Stone, the programme manager, chides the research will bring to health care back here. There's the value of international co-operation to American foreign policy. There are the possibilities for serendipitous high-tech discoveries.

But he sees something more too. "The ISS is about people of all walks, all races, many political systems all coming together to reach outside ourselves and accomplish something far greater than any of us could accomplish alone. To attempt what seems impossible, to reach beyond your grasp, to dare great deeds – this is an important part of being human." If fine words could launch a space station, Stone would have done his job already.

THEORETICALLY...

Brush your teeth to stay alive/ Pensioner in a spin/ The future is tiny

Worried about a heart attack? You should exercise, eat right and keep your teeth clean, according to a team from the University of Minnesota. They reckon that the bacteria found in plaque can cause blood platelets to clump up – the first stage toward a blood clot that could cause a heart attack or stroke. Gum disease then offers those bacteria a good route into the bloodstream; and several researchers have reported recently finding bacteria in the atherosclerotic plaque that clogs diseased coronary arteries.

Dr Mark Herzberg of the University of Minnesota, found that germs taken from dirty and diseased gums and infused into rabbits led to abnormal electrocardiograms and faster heart and breathing rates. Using a different bacterium did not have these effects.

Why? Some bacteria found in plaque and gum disease produce a protein called platelet aggregation associated protein or PAAP. This could be the key to the problem, Dr Herzberg said.

Spun but not shaken: that was John Glenn, soon to be the oldest astronaut, after he had a session in the training centrifuge at Brooks Air Force Base in Florida last Thursday. The whirling arm, intended to simulate the intense gravitational experience of a Space Shuttle launch, generated forces of up to 3g (three times the force of gravity). Officials had an ambulance standing by, "just to make sure", though they also insisted that they were "not at all worried" that the former and future astronaut would have any problems.

Glenn, who is now a senator, was the centrifuge's oldest rider: the former record-holder was aged 64. Taking a ride on the machine is a training requirement for all first-time space shuttle fliers, to acquaint them with the rigors of launch.

Building nanometre-scale machines could become easier using a technique devised by Israeli scientists, who have used DNA to grow wires just a few nanometres wide between two electrodes. Each electrode had a DNA "anchor" at the end: a "bridge" of DNA which would attach to those anchors was then added, and selected those electrodes to connect itself.

After that the researchers, at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, added positively-charged silver ions, which attached to the negatively charged DNA. According to their report in *Nature*, the ions were then chemically turned into silver atoms, leaving a silver bridge just 12 micrometres long. It's a technique which could be used to build the chips of the future: "Self-assembly is well-developed in nature," said one researcher. "The whole toolbox is there."

TELL ME ABOUT ... life expectancy

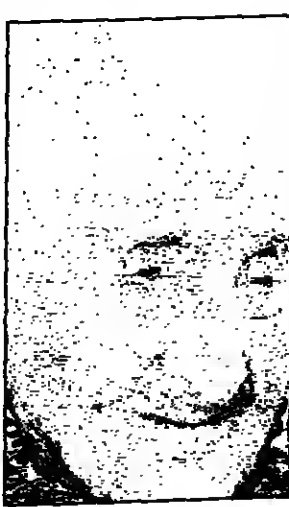
ONE of the most misunderstood statistics in general use is that of "life expectancy". If you tell someone that the life expectancy in country A is 43 years, and in country B is 63 years, they tend to think that in country A adults who are otherwise healthy start falling ill with fatal diseases in their fifth decade, while those in country B carry on happily for 20 more years.

That's the easy way to interpret the phrase "life expectancy at birth" – and it's also completely wrong.

People often get it mixed up with "lifespan". In fact, the maximum possible human lifespan probably hasn't changed in millennia. It's slightly more than 120 years (the oldest confirmed person in modern times, Jeanne Calmant, died last year, aged 122).

So what does life expectancy actually mean? It's how long, on average, a child born alive in that year can expect to live. Like any average, it's only a single figure, and since it's being used to express the huge variation of human lifespans across a population, it tends to mask the truth.

The fact is that country A in the above paragraph will probably be full of hale and



Oldest: Jeanne Calmant

heartily 60-year-olds. How have they survived? Because the "life expectancy" considers the age at death of everyone in the country – and if you average the the death of an infant before its first birthday and that of a 70-year-old, you get a life expectancy of just 35 years. However, 35-year-olds tend not to die as easily as 70-year-olds or infant children.

This is where people tend to trip up on this statistic. In countries with comparatively low life expectancy, it is almost always due to high infant mortality. Lack of medical care

and malnutrition often conspire to cause many young deaths in developing countries. Paradoxically, this often leads to a vicious circle: because children die young, families try to have many children, hoping that one or two will survive to adulthood. But this stretches their limited resources (such as food, clothing and often health care), which increases the risk that a child will be unhealthy.

In countries which charge for health care, it also increases the chance that they won't get proper treatment. Contraceptive availability usually breaks this loop because it means that having a child becomes a matter of choice, not chance.

Once infant mortality rates drop, life expectancy shoots up. In most Western countries, it is now well over 70. For instance, in the US, the life expectancy for someone born in the 1990s is 74.4 years.

But US citizens now aged 65 can expect to live another 17 years – to 82. And of course there are plenty of centenarians around. But it'll be a long time before our life expectancies approach our potential lifespans.

— Charles Arthur, Science Editor

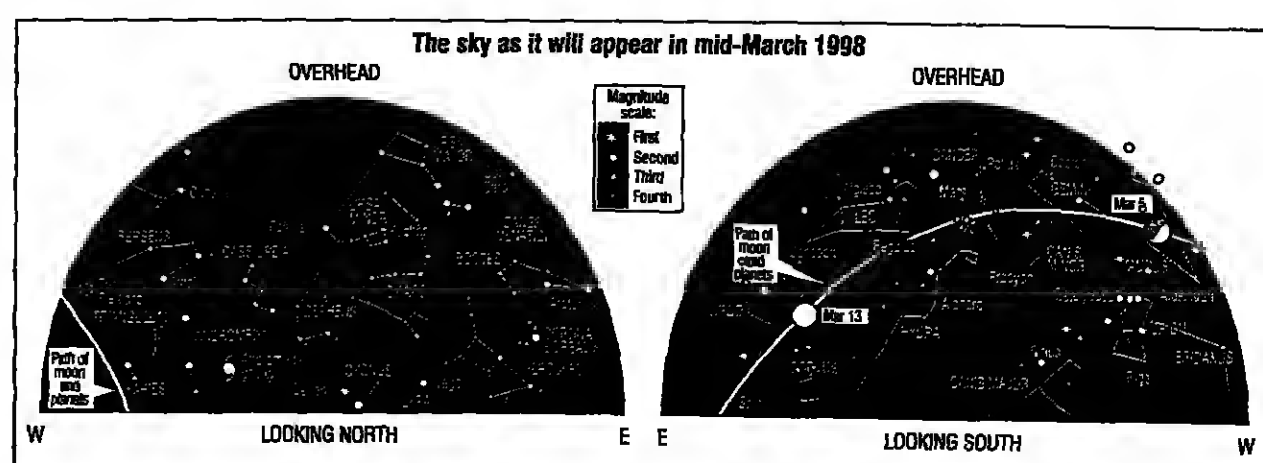
THE STARS NEXT MONTH

IF YOU'VE never seen the innermost planet, Mercury, now's your chance. It's never far from the Sun in the sky, and moves pretty rapidly – but in the second and third weeks of March, it will put on a creditable display after sunset.

It looks like a bright star, setting up to one and a half hours after the Sun. If you have binoculars, try to find the planet on the evening of 10 March, when it will be a couple of moonwidths north of the planet Mars. The Red Planet is currently only one-tenth as bright as Mercury and rapidly disappearing into the glare of the Sun. (But DON'T look at the Sun with binoculars.)

After Pluto, Mercury is the tiniest planet in the Solar System – only 40 per cent larger than our Moon, and smaller than Jupiter's moon Ganymede. Orbiting just 58 million km (36 million miles) from the Sun, Mercury feels its gravity very strongly. Like a conker on a very short string, it has to travel very quickly – at 200,000 kph, a hundred times faster than Concorde – to avoid being pulled in.

Only one space probe, Nasa's *Mariner 10*, has ever flown past Mercury. The images sent back show a heavily cratered world. Like the Moon, Mercury received a thorough



battering from debris left over from the building of the Solar System. One severe impact occurred 3.850 million years ago, when an asteroid about 100km across struck the planet. The blast resulted in a huge crater, the Caloris Basin, and sent ripples through the solid rock to create a "bullseye" shape of concentric mountain ranges spanning 3,700 km. The impact was so severe that it raised mountains 2km high on the opposite side of the planet.

But Mercury has some features the Moon doesn't. Among these are low ridges that run for hundreds of kilometres across the planet's surface, utterly disregarding the underlying terrain. These

"wrinkle ridges" are a sign that since it formed, Mercury has been shrinking – due to cooling – so its "skin" has become as creased and furrowed as an old, dried-up apple.

It may have decreased in size even more substantially. *Mariner 10* revealed that Mercury has a disproportionately large iron core, making up nearly half of the planet. This is a strong indication that Mercury itself was once very much bigger – perhaps as much as 30 per cent. What made it grow smaller? Possibly the hot gases streaming off the Sun simply boiled away Mercury's outer rocky layers. Or perhaps (more sensationally) in the turbulent early years of the Solar System,

Mercury was struck by a planet almost half its size. The resulting explosion blew off most of its surface layers, and destroyed the other planet altogether – except for its iron core, which merged with Mercury's to form a "supercore".

A few years ago, astronomers bouncing radar waves off the planet discovered that Mercury's poles contain highly reflective patches. This indicates something very smooth – more than any rock could be. Scientists concluded that they are observing deposits of ice, buried deep in dark craters that never get to see the rays of the Sun. On a world whose daytime temperature reaches 350C, it is an astonishing find.

What's up
At the beginning of March, the planet Venus rises a couple of hours before the Sun, although this is reduced to an hour by the end of the month. It reaches its greatest brightness this month (magnitude -4.5), and if you have a telescope, you'll notice it shrinks from a large crescent to a smaller "half moon" phase as the days progress.
Jupiter is concealed in the Sun's glare. Saturn is still visible in the western sky for a couple of hours after sunset – but it closes rapidly in on the Sun as the month ends.
Mars (24-hour, GMT)
5 March 08:11: Moon at first quarter
13 March 04:33: Full Moon
20 March 19:55: Venus Equinox (First day of spring)
21 March 07:38: Moon at last quarter
28 March 03:14: New Moon
29 March 02:00: British Summer Time begins (clocks go forward)
— Heather Couper and Nigel Henbest

Walking tall, talking loud



DEBORAH ROSS
TALKS TO
JANET
STREET-PORTER

JANET STREET-PORTER lives in this amazing house in the London district of Clerkenwell. It's stunning. Steel spiral staircases. Diagonal windows. Doors of fat, dark wood with thick bits of rope for handles. "Gosh Janet," I say somewhat breathlessly, having climbed the long, external spiral staircase, "this is fantastic. Is it Wimpey or Barratt?" She looks at me stonily. "Neither. It's architect-designed." Janet Street-Porter is 6ft tall. But even if she were 3ft she'd somehow make you feel stupid and small. Inside, the house is all magically upside-down, with the kitchen in the roof, even the garden in the roof in the form of a concrete wedge jutting out. There are purple, triangular tables, pink benches, peach, colour-washed walls and, downstairs in the bedroom, an old British Rail parcel trolley magnificently converted into a bed. Eager, naturally, to claw my way back from that initial *four pas*. I tell her that, as everything on telly these days seems to be about vets or interior design, she should think about building a series around, say, neutering lions on that purple table while talking us through the colour-washing of the walls.

She laughs. I am redeemed, but I suspect only marginally. She says she's got a piece to write for the *Sunday Times*. Then she has to go to Channel 4 to take part in some discussion programme. Plus, she's awaiting an important call to do with a new show for ITV. "You can't stay long," she says. "I've got work to do." Her glottals stop all over the shop. But I can't work out how to best write this down. No "T" is ever pronounced. Got becomes "go," but it isn't "go," as in "ready, steady, go" because it's sounded to rhyme with "got," only without the "t". See how complex it is? You'll just have to imagine it.

Physically, Janet Street-Porter is immensely impressive. It's not just the height or that spectacularly crowded mouth, it's also her figure. No waist to speak of, she goes straight up and down, and most of it's made up of the fabulously long legs which, today, end in these fluffy, slip-on trainer things. No, they are not slippers, she explains. They are part of Nike's new "post-exertion footwear" range. Janet, even at 51, remains a very happening, slipper-scorning sort of person. Her energy and stamina are known to be quite something.

After various incarnations—presenter,

producer, BBC executive, managing director of the cable station Live TV—she has gone back to presenting with *Coast To Coast*, a seven-part series which begins on 27 February on BBC2 and essentially follows Janet as she walks across the south coast of England, from Dungeness to Weston-Super-Mare, then through Wales, from Cardiff to Conwy, a trip of more than 500 miles. She has always been a keen walker, yes. She's a former president of the Ramblers' Association. She owns a second home in Yorkshire, goes up most weekends, and walks and walks. I am not a great walker myself. I mean, if God had wanted us to walk, why did he invent cars and roads and McDonald's drive-ins? I am still having trouble breathing from that staircase. But if there is one thing more tiring and dull than going for a walk yourself, then it might be watching Janet Street-Porter going for a walk.

In the opening episode, she promises to deliver "glimpses of post-election Britain" as she tramps across the countryside. Unfortunately, these glimpses never really come about. Instead, it's Janet traipsing through rape. Janet in a poncho in the rain. Janet discussing routes with other sad anoraks. Janet being joined by Chris Smith somewhere in mid-Wales, slipping in mud, and getting a dirty bottom. Chris doesn't bother to help her up. (What does this tell us about post-election Britain? Fall on your bum and New Labour doesn't give a fig?) What does she see in this walking nonsense anyway? "You know, when you start off, there are all your thoughts in your head. Have I called so-and-so? Have I left bread in the bread-bin in Yorkshire? But as you walk you stop thinking about those things." So you find it cleansing in some way? Yes, she does, she says. Plus it's relaxing, too. The only thing that ever riles her while she's walking are caravans. Caravans? "Hate them. They're dangerous on the road and they ruin beautiful countryside. Plus, people just seem to stay inside them, watching telly." Isn't that a bit snobby, Janet? "Oh, don't give me that rubbish, PLEASE!" she cries impatiently. "Independent readers don't own caravans."

The thing about Janet I would most like to work out is: has she been over-rated or under-rated over the years? Is she a great deal cleverer than most people think? Or was she lucky to get as far as she did? She came within a squeak of the Controllership of BBC2. You don't get there by fluke alone, I'm sure. But, still, what did she ever really achieve as a telly executive? There was Network 7, which she produced for Channel 4, and which was truly innovative and rightly won lots of awards for originality. But after that, when she was head of "yoof" at the BBC? *Rough Guide* and *Reportage* were fine for their particular audiences, but the ooc chance she was given to do something mainstream, she came up with the truly appalling flop that was *Style Trial*. Subsequently, her time at Live TV was not a great success. Eventually, she was packed off with a pay-off reputed to be between £100,000 and £200,000. For various reasons, this wasn't entirely her fault. But, still, when *Nightmare At Canary Wharf*—a fly-on-the-wall documentary about her time there—went out, I remember being quite shocked by how childish she seemed. It was all "I want" and "I want IT NOW!" and "don't give me fucking excuses. Just go do it!" Janet is clever, I think. She may even



Janet Street-Porter: Friend of the countryside, sworn enemy of caravanners everywhere.

Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

be very clever. But she is only clever in a totally here and now. Nike post-exertion footwear sort of way. She is wholly of the moment, and if her moment doesn't happen to be anyone else's, then she's not really offering very much. She will not answer any questions about her past. "I don't want to go over old ground," she says. "The other day, the editor of a soon-to-be launched magazine rang me. They wanted me to write a piece on the Seventies. I said: 'You're starting a new magazine, and you want me to write about something that's 20 years old? You should be commissioning pieces on what's happening out there now.'"

What is happening out there now? "Well, I'm interested in psychic vam-

per house. "I'm not talking about THAT!" she says.

And the future? It's not something she ever thinks about either. She spends as she earns. She doesn't do pensions or shares or investments. Recently, on a trip to Jamaica, she bought a piece of land because she just fancied it.

In some ways Janet is, if not admirable, then at least enviable. I, too, would love to live remorselessly in the present. I tell her as much. I tell her I worry about everything. The past. The future. You name it, I'll have a worry about it. She looks at me pityingly then says that, if my worries wake me in the middle of the night, I should write them down there and then. "Then, when you look at them in the morning, they'll seem piddling."

You've done that, have you?

"Yes." And what would those worries be. I ask. I hope for something interesting here but, annoyingly, lose her again.

"Oh, you know, the usual things. Where's my waist gone? Why's my skin getting all loose. Did I leave that bread in the bread bin?"

I change tack and ask her of she's ever been badly hurt by anything? "Oh yes. Like I really want to share that with the readers of *The Independent*," she says mockingly. "I'm not telling you." She is beginning to get on my nerves now, so I persist. Did it hurt when you tried to flog off your old clothes at Christies, and no one bought them? "Nah. I only did it so I could have double glazing in the bedroom." Did it hurt when Kelvin Mackenzie was editor of the *Sun*, and he published a picture of you next to a horse, and asked readers to vote on who was the uglier?

"Can't remember." Janet, do you ever cry?

"Yes." When was the last time?

"When my dad died. I think. I can't remember."

She was born Janet Bull (She has kept the name of her first husband, the photographer Tim Street-Porter) Her mother, Cherrie, was a school dinner lady. Her dad, Stan, was an electrician. She grew up in Fulham, until, in her early teens, her par-

ents moved to the suburb that is Perivale. She was a model pupil. She got 11 O-levels and four A-levels.

She has always been terrifically ambitious. This only comes out when, for some reason, we get onto our mutual love of Scrabble. She adores it, but is a horrible loser. Once, she was playing with someone on the beach. The moment she started to lose, she took all the letters and threw them, cursing, in the sea. This seems to connect with her childhood and, before she knows it, she is remembering something almost interesting. "I joined the Young Conservative Quiz Team when I was a kid, not because I was ever a Young Conservative, but because I wanted to do the quizzes and win. So, always ambitious, yes. Eventually, she

She is wholly of the moment, and if her moment isn't anybody else's, then she's not really offering much

may even have become ambitious beyond her abilities.

Certainly, she never seems to have been without a bloke. I had even read that she first became engaged at 14. True?

"I can't remember." Certainly, when there have't been husbands, there have been lovers. Musicians. Style people. A rap artist called Normski or Sidski or something. Does she find it hard to not have a man?

"No." You once said relationships were like gambling chips. You start off with a big pile, then hit by hit the chips go, and the pile gets smaller and smaller until it's time to move on.

"Did I?"
YES!
"Can't remember."

She has never had children. I ask her if she thinks she'll ever regret this, if only fleetingly. She gets cross. "Would you ask a bloke that question? Would you ask Cee Anderson?" Yes, absolutely, if he didn't have kids. She softens slightly. "If I had children, where would they go?" she says. She then adds: "Am I frightened there will be no one there to look after me in my old age? No! I'm going to move into a great home with my friends. We'll go about 10 minutes in our wheelchairs."

She went to architectural college. It gave up after the first year because she met fellow student Piers Gough—the architect who eventually designed this house of hers, the man at Wimpey being busy—and knew she'd never be as good as him. She turned to journalism, writing for *Petticoat* Magazine, then the *Evening Standard*, before going on to telly, and team-presenting light-weight topical shows. She was made head of BBC "yoof" in 1988. She says BBC "loved me" but that didn't stop the marching her up to a Portakabin in Manchester when the department was relocated. Did she mind? "I conformed," she says.

She says she ultimately left the BBC because she was repeatedly passed over for the bigger jobs, but because she stopped enjoying it. "The job wasn't creative. Someone would come in with an idea, you have to take it to the channel controller... I felt trapped."

What, I wonder, is her own favourite telly programme? *Casualty*, she replies. I say I can't stand it. The shot of the rotating saw. The shot of the thumb. The anticipation knowing that the thumb and the saw are going to meet, and the thumb's going come off the worst, if it doesn't come off altogether. I can't bear it. She says: "Oh, no, love knowing the paths are going to cross. I love Charlie, whose always staring into space. What is he thinking of? It's like watching a ballet, the way it's all interwoven."

I think my not liking *Casualty* might have been the last straw. Whatever ground I may have made up, I went and lost it. Really, I have to go. She's got all this work to do. I am shoofed back down the steel spiral staircase which, I'm sure, didn't come flat-packed from Ikea. I find I'm quite tired by the time I get home.

Mother Teresa would have stuffed the duvet down my throat



DINAH
HALL

IT WAS the half term from hell. In my more cheerful moments I imagined that Saddam Hussein was using our house as target practice for germ warfare. But when things got really bad I even wondered if an invitation to stay with the Conservative parenting role model from *Modern Times* might have been preferable.

All my plans for a culturally enhancing, activity-packed week (well, we were going to see *Flubber*, anyway) were laid waste when the youngest came down with what sounded like a close relation of consumption. "Hacking" is not the word to describe the cough that

goes with this flu-like virus that has been cutting classes across the country to sizes usually found on remote Hebridean islands: this is a cough that could demolish 20-storey buildings, that propels a child upright in bed at 20 minute intervals throughout the night.

Just as I and my eldest son joined the phlegm chorus half way through the week, my husband conveniently found a job to do in New York. ("Should I go Air India or Virgin?" he rang from his office to ask me.

A Simple enough question, you think? Ha, no, he was trying to put the onus of responsibility on me to choose the

plane which wasn't going to crash. Not that we are paranoid or anything.) But his absence, I reflected, between nocturnal lung evacuations, was probably a good thing, because however much you love someone, you actually want to murder them in the night when they can't stop coughing.

If Mother Teresa had been lying beside me in bed (now there's a spooky thought), even she would have been tempted to stuff the duvet down my throat. ("Stop it! Stop that cough right now!" I bellowed at my poor little five-year-old in the middle of the fifth sleep-deprived night; thank goodness there was no

Modern Times camera crew around.)

As half the country has already been in the grip of this particular virus, there has been no shortage of medical tips. "Try Potter's Cough Remover!" advised a sophisticated publishing executive. It was only when I read the label that I remembered this woman is only sophisticated two days a week—the other five days she lives within divining distance of Glastonbury, Black Cohosh, Skullcap, Pleurisy Root and Skunk Cabbage are some of the more picturesque ingredients—and surprisingly delicious it is too: the addition of chloroform and ipecacuanha

adding an authentic Victorian flavour to my Emily Brontë impersonation. Anyway, I think it is doing the trick, though it does seem to be removing my lungs along with the cough.

There's only one thing worse than being ill in a hypochondriac household—and that's not being ill. The 11-year-old has been solicitously tucking the thermometer under his little sister's tongue—but more in Olympian than Hippocratic spirit. He's just checking to make sure no one beats his record temperature of 106 degrees. "You're not as ill as I was," he keeps crowing.

Our first nanny, who looked after him until he was one, and

who is now an educational psychologist (the two events being entirely unconnected), assured me when she came to pick up the girls to take them for a bridesmaids' fitting, that this sort of competitiveness is natural in large families. In order to persuade my clinging five-year-old to go off with this unfamiliar woman, I had told her Virginia worked with "problem" children—meaning she probably had some good stories up her professional sleeve.

"But I haven't got any problems" she protested indignantly. "No darling," I said, trying to think what the other awful family on *Modern Times*

would have said, "but I expect you're angry with Mummy for being ill aren't you. I mean, this note I've found pinned up on my office wall..."

If she wasn't so good at phonics I might have hoped it was just a random assortment of letters—FUC TO M HSE. But clearly she was expressing—and of course, that's got to be healthy, even if it is not perhaps in the language I would have chosen—her inner rage.

"Oh God, Mum" she said in exasperated tones "don't you even know about emergent writing? Miss Blanchard could read that. It says 'friends are coming to my house'."

Marie-Louise von Franz

MARIE-LOUISE von Franz was renowned on several counts. She was a first-rate and compassionate analyst. She was the closest colleague of C.G. Jung, with whom she worked for over 30 years, and contributed a great deal to his major works, particularly his monumental studies on psychology and alchemy. She was also the author of a number of books including a whole collection on the psychology of fairy tales, and was a leading authority in this field.

What is exceptional about her books on fairy tales is their readability. She possessed few theoretical formulations, and her direct and colloquial style of English (not her mother tongue) makes her writing easily accessible and as fascinating to read as the tales themselves. Through it, people from all walks of life have been made aware that these timeless tales are not the sole preserve of children and are struck by how relevant they are to their daily lives.

The first of these books, *Problems of the Feminine in Fairytales* (1972), was published in 1972; it was followed by *An Introduction to the Interpretation of Fairytales* (1973), *Shadow and Evil in Fairytales* (1974) and

"eternal youth", an increasingly common visitor to the consulting room, who lives his life as if his time has not yet come; a strictly provisional life which results in a refusal to commit to the moment, be it a job, a partner, or anything to do with the here and now. This is often accompanied by a fascination with flying or mountain climbing, the symbolism being to get as high as possible and as far away from the mundanities of ordinary life. She also published several other books on alchemy, dreams, classical mythology and the psychology of projection.

Marie-Louise von Franz was born in Munich of Austrian parents, but spent most of her life in Switzerland. Even in primary school she had a reputation for a formidable intellect. She was, for example, unwilling to accept the tenets of the religious education taught at her school. She so exasperated the priest who was teaching her class that he insisted upon giving her private lessons. The upshot, according to a repentant von Franz, was that he completely lost his faith and left the priesthood.

She went on to attend the University of Zurich and reached a stage where she had to choose between a doctorate in classical languages or studying medicine. She had by now started analysis with Jung and told him about a dream that indicated to him that she should choose classical languages. It was a brilliant choice, particularly for Jung, who from then on got all the Greek and Latin texts he needed for the price of free analytic sessions.

When von Franz was 41, Jung permitted her to take on her first client. The client was a woman on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Von Franz was naturally eager to make a success of her first case, but the woman she tried to prop the woman up the worse she became. In despair she turned to Jung who advised her to let the client have her nervous breakdown. Von Franz backed off, and stopped straining to help, and the woman soon made a full recovery.

She said that this was the most important lesson she ever had in therapeutic technique, showing her the limitations of willpower and the ego, and the role of the Unconscious as the centre of the personality.

She likened this to Galileo's discovery that the Earth revolved around the sun, not vice versa. Like the Earth the Ego

is an important satellite revolving around a much larger and more powerful centre. Galileo's discovery got him excommunicated by the ruling establishment, and Jung has suffered a similar fate at the hands of the scientific establishment.

For Jung, the structure of the psyche's centre was made up of what he called "archetypes", the fundamental building blocks or anatomy of psychic life. Like every other part of the human anatomy the "archetypes" were common to all people; this commonality he called the Collective Unconscious.

Some years ago von Franz predicted that, like Galileo's discovery, future generations of researchers would discover these self-same psychic structures without any reference or acknowledgement to Jung. This she felt would be only right and proper. For the fact that they made this discovery independently would prove that Jung's work was not at all hypothetical but was based on the objective facts of psychic life.

In the last few years a whole new breed of evolutionary psychologists have indeed rediscovered these self-same structures, and rechristened them in such terms as "mental modules", often without any reference to Jung's work.

Working on this archetypal level von Franz soon realised that, for her at least, the only effective and decent way to work with a client was to work on the material of her own life, both inner and outer - in other words in her own house in order.

Her model for therapy, therefore, which she imparted to all her pupils, was not at all modern or even post-modern. It was as simple as it was disconcerting: "Work very hard on your own psychic life, and hope for a synchronistic happening in the client's. In this way everything is kept open and alive and there are no set rules."

That is except perhaps for one rule. Von Franz counselled that it would be wrong to become a Jungian. If you do that, you miss the whole point of her psychology, which was to become the one unique individual you are meant to be.

Everyone who knew Marie-Louise von Franz, or her work, can see to what remarkable degree she achieved her individuality.

Chuck Schwartz

Marie-Louise von Franz, analytical psychologist, born Munich 4 January 1915; died Küssnacht, Switzerland 16 February 1998.



Von Franz: fairy tales

several others. They are still best sellers in the psychology world and seem set to remain so.

There are many other books by her on a variety of subjects. Among the most distinguished are *Number and Time* (1980), on the connection between psychology and modern physics; a detailed scholarly work, in collaboration with Emma Jung (Jung's wife) on the symbolism of the Grail legend; *Aurora Consurgens*, a translation and exposition of an early alchemical text ascribed to St Thomas Aquinas; and *Jung, His Myth in Our Time* (1972), a biography, elucidating Jung's essential work.

Von Franz also wrote a landmark book called *The Problem of the 'Puer Aeternus'*, on the



Male in the 1930s: a simple, solid, archetypally hard but fair style of play

George Male

BY COMMON consent in the 1930s, George Male was the best right-back in England, some said the finest in the world, and to the majority of British football fans in an era before the expertise of overseas players had impinged on the national consciousness, it amounted to the same thing anyway.

The last surviving regular member of Arsenal's imperious pre-war team, which lifted four League titles and the FA Cup in the space of six seasons, he captained both club and country and was renowned for his sportsmanship and modesty, even in an era when such qualities were not in short supply.

Male's name will be linked forever to that of Eddie Hapgood, his full-back partner at Highbury and another man to skipper the Gunners and England. Like so many famous sporting pairs, they offered a sharp contrast both in character and in the way they went about their business. Where Male was unassuming and calm, favouring a simple, solid, archetypally hard but fair style of play, the more ambitious Hapgood was a volatile extrovert, all elegant poise and smooth technique. They complemented each other ideally.

George Male was born in West Ham and represented the Hammers at schoolboy level before taking a job in insurance and playing his football for a local amateur team. Clapton of the Isthmian League. However, his potential was spotted by Arsenal and he signed amateur forms for the north Londoners in November 1929, turning professional six months later.

His progress was rapid and in December 1930 he made his senior debut, at left half, in a swingeing 7-1 home victory over Blackpool. That season was to end with the Gunners winning the League Championship for the first time in their history, and although Male made insufficient appearances to qualify for a medal, he was soon to make up for it with a vengeance.

First, though, would come disappointment when an injury-induced team reshuffle secured him a place at Wembley for the 1932 FA Cup Final, only

for Newcastle United to triumph thanks to a famously controversial goal.

Next came a crucial crossroads in the Male career. Hitherto the solidly-built Eastender had been a competent but hardly outstanding wing-half, a fact recognised by his manager, the inspirational but often intimidating Herbert Chapman. At the outset of the 1932/33 campaign, Arsenal had a problem at right back and the great man summoned Male to his presence, announcing portentously: "George, you are going to be a right-back." Then, without awaiting a reply, he proceeded to work on the modest 22-year-old's self-esteem.

Many years later Male recalled: "By the time I got out of that room, I wasn't merely convinced that I was a full-blown right-back, I knew without doubt that I was the best right-back in the country!" It was a typical example of Chapman's mesmeric power over his players, illustrating a key constituent in the benevolently despotic personality of one of the most successful soccer bosses the game has known. In this case, Chapman's wisdom in decreeing a change of position was evident immediately. Male settled into his new role as if born in it and within a few months had been called up for an international trial.

Come 1933/34, arguably the finest English club side of the first half of the 20th century was approaching its prime. That term Male didn't miss a match as Arsenal, employing the then-innovative "stopper" defensive method and with bountifully gifted forwards such as Alex James and Cliff Bastin a joy to behold, won the first of three successive titles. In 1936, they lifted the FA Cup, with Male performing majestically in the 1-0 final victory over Sheffield United, and two years later took yet another championship.

On the international front, Male had received his first cap in 1934, one of seven Gunners involved in the so-called "Battle of Highbury", in which England defeated the World Cup holders Italy by three goals to two. The match was for the unofficial championship of the

world because, at that time, England didn't deign to enter the tournament, instead allowing the foreigners to fight it out amongst themselves before challenging the winners. In the event it was a brutally physical affair and a supremely trying baptism for Male, but one from which he emerged with credit for his characteristic coolness under extreme provocation.

Thereafter he played a further 18 times for his country, including a spell as captain towards the end of the decade, and but for the Second World War, which began when Male was 29 and at his peak, it is likely that his caps total would have been considerably higher. After the conflict, during which he served with the RAF in Palestine, Male returned to first-team duty and although he managed only intermittent outings, having reached a grand old age in footballing terms, his eight games in 1947/48 made him the first man to figure in six title-winning campaigns. When he finished, in a 8-0 trouncing of Grimsby Town that May, he had represented the Gunners in 314 senior matches (without scoring a goal), in addition to 181 games for the club in wartime competition.

Reaching the end of his playing career did not signal Male's departure from Highbury, however. He became a coach, guiding first the juniors and then the reserves, a firm but kindly and avuncular figure who rejoiced in the affection of his young charges. After that he earned further respect as a shrewd talent-spotter - the 1970s star Charlie George was his best-known discovery - and he went on to serve Arsenal in various administrative roles. He retired in 1975, living in Yorkshire, then joining his son in Canada.

The last of Chapman's magnificent side to stop playing, and the last to die, George Male was never the most feted of Gunners, but he was one of the worthiest.

Ivan Ponting

Charles George Male, footballer: born London 8 May 1910; played for Arsenal 1929-48; capped 19 times for England 1934-39; married (one son); died 19 February 1998.

Erich Mückenberger

WHEN arraigned before a Berlin court for his responsibility, as a member of the ruling Politburo, for the deaths of the Berlin Wall victims, Mückenberger called the trial "victors' justice". He was subsequently allowed to withdraw from it on the grounds of ill-health in August 1996. The East German Communists had always claimed to head a sovereign, independent state, but at the trial they argued that they had been under orders from Moscow to maintain the Berlin Wall and, if necessary, shoot would-be escapees.

Many of those who defend the East German Communist leaders forget that Mückenberger, and virtually all of the others, were expelled from the party (SED/PDS) at its special congress in January 1990. At that time the Communists still ran the East German state (DDR). Had the DDR continued to exist they would probably have been tried for misuse of office and imprisoned. As it is, Mückenberger, and most of the other surviving SED Politburo members, have been permitted to spend their remaining days as pensioners.

Born in the industrial town of Chemnitz in 1910, Mückenberger grew up in a Social Democratic, working-class milieu. He completed his apprenticeship as a machine-fitter and enrolled in the Social Democratic Party (SPD) youth organisation in 1924. Three years later he joined the SPD and worked as a functionary of the Reichsbanner, the party's paramilitary formation. After the Nazi seizure of power in 1933 he carried on illegal political activity. Arrested in 1935, he spent several months in Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

In 1938 he served a ten-month jail sentence. Although a known opponent of the Nazi regime he was called up for war service in 1942. After returning from the war in 1945 he rejoined the SPD. He supported its merger with the Communist KPD in 1946, and was appointed secretary of the new Socialist Unity Party (SED) in Chemnitz. He then rose rapidly through the ranks of the SED serving as first secretary of the party in Saxony (1948-49) and Thuringia (1949-1950).

The following night saw the opening of the Berlin Wall and all DDR frontier crossings. Mückenberger stepped down with the entire Politburo on 3 December only 50 days after replacing Honecker. Mückenberger and most of the other Politburo members had no choice but to resign on 8 November 1989.

Unlike Honecker, Mielke and others, Erich Mückenberger was at least spared arrest by the SED-led government. Only his erstwhile comrade Willi Stoph, had survived longer in the jungle of the Politburo.

David Childs

Erich Mückenberger, politician: born Chemnitz, Germany 8 June 1910; died Berlin 19 February 1998.

Lord Granville of Eye

A LITERARY footnote should be added to Malcolm Barnes's and Tam Dalyell's obituary of Lord Granville of Eye [19 February], writes Alan Deyermond.

Edgar Granville is one of relatively few MPs to have been the recognisable central character of a contemporary novel. Roger Fulford's *The Right Honourable Gentleman* (1945) tells of the rise and fall of Augustus Stryver, who is elected Liberal MP for a hitherto safely Conservative East Anglian constituency, becomes a junior minister in the National Government, and is brought down by sexual scandal. The events of Stryver's career coincide only in part with

Granville's, but the character is recognisable, and Fulford confirmed to me, a few years after publication, that Granville was indeed the model. Fulford knew the still ambitious Granville, unrecognisable in the older man so moving evoked by Tam Dalyell.

The Right Honourable Gentleman is still a good read: not, I think, in the top rank of this century's political novels (alongside William Cooper's *Disquiet and Peace*, 1956; Douglas Hurd and Andrew Osmond's *Scotch on the Rocks*, 1968; or Chris Mullin's *A Very British Coup*, 1982), but much above the average, and better, even than C.P. Snow's *Corridors of Power* (1964).

Peter Sheridan QC, Robert Vables QC, Amanda Hardy (Lipkin Gorman) for the taxpayer; Timothy Brennan (IR Solicitors) for the Crown.

Ken Weekes

KEN "BAM BAM" WEEKES made his name in the last series before the Second World War, the 1939 tour of West Indies to England. He was a left-handed bat and wicket-keeper, broad-chested and hawk-eyed, a prodigious hitter who had first appeared for Jamaica in 1938 and who won his touring place as much because he made a useful deputy for the first-choice keeper Ivan Barrow.

In those days England regarded matches against the West Indies as an opportunity to experiment, rather as England regarded Chile in the football match at Wembley the week before last.

Weekes was among four West Indians who made their debuts in the first Test, over three days at Lord's, while England named such fringe players as Arthur Wood and Harold Gimblett and gave a first cap to the Derbyshire fast bowler Bill Copson.

Weekes scored 20 and 16, not enough in a flaky order that

was over-dependent upon George Headley, to keep his place. Headley became the first player to score a century in each innings of a Lord's Test yet his team lost by eight wickets after Hutton and Compton had added 248 for the fourth England wicket in not much more than two hours.

Weekes thus missed the Manchester Test, which was drawn, but, having scored 146 against Surrey at the Oval he was recalled for the last Test, at the Surrey ground.

Walter Keeton, of Nottinghamshire, another England experiment, had the misfortune to be bowled first ball, by Tyrell Johnson, but England's score of 352 was looking handsome when West Indies slumped to 164-4.

Weekes appeared, nervously, but 11 in one over from Reg Perks, another trialist, settled his eye. With Vic Stollmeyer he added 163 in 156 minutes, 50 runs came off the first four overs of the new ball. Perks being hit

for another 21 in one over, high into the deep. West Indies drew the match. Weekes never played in Test cricket again, thus retiring with a job in insurance and playing his football for a local amateur team.

His career average, playing his last game for Jamaica in 1948, was a more realistic but nevertheless worthy 40. He afterwards returned to his native United States and spent his later days working in New York. Weekes paid little attention to the coaching manual and his stance was once described by Douglas Jardine as "insolent".

He was born in America, of a Barbadian father and a Jamaican mother and had he arrived 80 years later, a southpaw batter of such prowess, Ken Weekes would have signed for the Yankees and died a multimillionaire.

Derek Hodgson

Kenneth Hurrell Weekes, cricketer: born 24 January 1912; married (six children); died New York 9 February 1998.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

SWYCHER: In London, to Sally (née Farmer) and Nigel Swycher, a son, Matthew John, a brother for Emma Scott and Adam Thomas.

DEATHS

MORRIS: Clavon Mary (née Francis) died suddenly on 15 February aged 51.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Prince Edward, Patron, hosts a concert given by the London Mozart Players, followed by a dinner, in St James's Palace.

51. Service and interment at St Thomas-a-Beckett Church, Warrington. Havant on Saturday 28 February at 10.30am. Flowers to Carroll's Funeral Service, 4 Town Hall Road, Havant, PO9 1AN.

SEABROOK: Suddenly on 18 February in Norwich, Miles, aged 47 years. Enquiries to Peter Taylor Funeral Services, 01603 760787.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

SANDERS: Colin, CBE, A Memorial Service will be held in the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, High Street, Oxford on Thursday 12 March 1998 at 2.30pm. Enquiries to R.V. Mallott, 01865 744504.

For Gazette, telephone 0171-293 2011.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment presents the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Forthcoming Engagements

Mr C. Vanni and Mrs R. Pyle

The engagement is announced between Rebecca, daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Pyle, of Oakley, Buckinghamshire, and Cristiano, son of Signor and Signora M. Vanni of Vellano, Italy.

Birthdays

Mr Bill Alexander, theatre director, 50; Mr Jim Cousins MP, 54; Lord Ezra, former Coal Board chief, 79; Mr Peter Fonda, actor, 58; Miss Sylvia Guillem, ballerina, 33; Mr Nicholas Kempton, controller, BBC Radio 3, 47; Mr John Lewis, Head Master, Eton College, 56; Mr Anton Mosimann, cuisinier and proprietor, Mosimann's, St. Mrs Sandra Osborne MP, 42; Lord Tugendhat, chairman, Abbey National, 61.

Anniversaries

Births: George Frederick Handel, composer, 1685; Meyer Amschel Rothschild, banker, 1743. Deaths: John Keats, poet, 1821. Today is the Feast Day of St Alexander Akimedes, St Basil or Boswell, St Donatus, St Milburga or Mildgytha, St Polycarp of Smyrna, St Serebas or Cernul the Gardener and St Willigs.

Lectures

London School of Economics: Victor Klima, "A People's Europe - Goals and Challenges of the Austrian EU Presidency", 12 noon.

CASE SUMMARIES: 23 FEBRUARY 1998

The following notes of judgments were prepared by reporters of the *All England Law Reports*.

Abuse of process

UPS Ltd v Lewis CA (Kerney; Millett JJ) 25 Jan 1998.

It was not an abuse of the process of the court to apply to the High Court for summary judgment under RSC Ord 14 in a case which would undoubtedly be transferred to the

county court to be tried under the small claims arbitration procedure if it was found that there was a triable issue.

David de Jehon for the appellant; the respondent appeared in person.

Tax

Schulken v Hilton (HMT); CND (Neuberger J) 10 Feb 1998.

An agreement between the taxpayer and the Revenue under s 54 of the Taxes Manage-

ment Act 1970 was of a contractual nature. The issue of an erroneous assessment for an "ad" amount did not amount to an offer which was capable of being accepted by the taxpayer, and even if it had been, mere inaction would not have amounted to acceptance.

Peter Sheridan QC, Robert Vables QC, Amanda Hardy (Lipkin Gorman) for the taxpayer; Timothy Brennan (IR Solicitors) for the Crown.

Johnson (HMT) v Prudential Assurance Co Ltd CA (Nourse, Brooke LJ, Sir Brian Neill) 13 Feb 1998.

Expenses deducted pursuant to a calculation by the income minus expenses method for life assurance business could not also be deducted under the Sched D calculation of an insurance company's total profits.

Peter Whiteman QC (Lloyd White Durrant) for the taxpayer; Christopher McCall (IR Solicitors) for the Crown.

The Dome was a bad idea, but we must start to make the best of it



EDITOR: ROSIE BOYCOTT
DEPUTY EDITOR: CHRIS BLACKHURST
ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE,
CANARY WHARF,
LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000
OR 0171 345 2000
FAX: 0171 293 2435
OR 0171 345 2435

There are two good arguments for praising the Government's plans for the millennium Dome. One is that it is going to happen, so we might as well look on the bright side. The other is that it is a much more testing intellectual challenge than going for the easy, negative cynicism which so disfigures modern journalism.

Too bad. We came to mock and stayed to, well, mock some more. We neither expected nor liked Tony Blair's decision to save the Dome last year, but we hoped we might be proved wrong. We thought that perhaps Mr Blair and Mr Mandelson had a cunning plan.

But with each passing day shortening the countdown, it has become more and more obvious that the Prime Minister's decision was an error. His announcement tomorrow, unveiling some of the things that are going to be in the Dome, seems unlikely to reverse this process.

In a way, it cannot, because it will not reverse the cart-before-horse nature of the

project. Mr Blair cannot undo the fact that the Dome as architecture came before a decision as to what it was for.

The Dome will be home to a year-long show so fuzzily-defined it is only called an "Experience". An Expo rather than an Expo. A theme park without a theme. A "mind-boggling multimedia spectacular" (P. Mandelson again) that will boggle the mind about as much as a trip to the Science Museum or a spin on a 233MHz computer with a good graphics card.

Then there is Baby Dome, the 6,000-seater building outside the main structure which Mr Mandelson announced yesterday. What is that for? Live performances, apparently. It seems that, as soon as anyone started to work out what to put in the Dome it turned out they needed a different building altogether.

But back to the first argument. The big Dome will be built. Indeed, the skeleton of the structure is already up. Should we not try to make the best of it? Yes, of

course. The "Experience" could still widen the debate about our future as a nation: how we will live in the Information Age, our values, our place in the world. Let us hope it will be more serious of purpose than we fear, and that we can learn from the mistakes of throwaway Disneyfication.

But it is also quite important to understand why £400m of public money is being spent on something hardly anybody wants. Even if people like it when it opens, there would always have been other more popular – and more worthwhile – things on which the money could have been spent.

It was, after all, Mr Blair who made the point most forcefully that National Lottery proceeds are public money, when he allocated some of them to health and education services under the slogan "The People's Money". Just to underline the point, the Chancellor floated the idea at the weekend of spending a similar amount

of lottery cash on free TV licences for pensioners.

So why did Mr Blair, who had played hard ball with the Conservative Government when it appealed for bipartisan support, give the go-ahead? Mr Mandelson, now appealing equally unsuccessfully for bipartisan support, wrote in December: "It will provide a huge boost to jobs and the economy from visitor spending and tourism."

It was the negative reasons he gave which were more interesting. "All eyes will be on the Greenwich Meridian on 31 December 1999. It would have been a telling comment on ourselves if all we had to offer was bunting and 300 acres of contaminated wasteland."

In fact, all eyes are not on the Greenwich Meridian but on its opposite, the International Date Line on the other side of the world. What has really caught the eye has been the laughable antics of various Pacific Islands as they try to move the

Date Line and so be first to see the sun rise in a year with a lot of zeros in it.

But it was clear that national pride was at stake. Mr Mandelson went on to ask: "What would the rest of the world have thought of a country that decided the event was just too big for it to pull off?"

It was the fear of not having anything to show at a time when the world would be going silly over a round number that prompted Mr Blair's decision. It was not a good reason, and it demonstrated a lack of confidence at the heart of his rhetoric of "national renewal".

Mr Mandelson's attempt to co-opt the Tories should prompt hollow laughter – we can be sure that were it to succeed, New Labour would take the credit. But if the project is a "national event" and not an issue of party politics, as he insists, then he should take Lord Richard Rogers' advice, and appoint a non-politician as ring-master to oversee it.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor
and include a daytime telephone number.
Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.
Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Town and country

THE countryside cannot be divided into neat little compartments – some good, some bad, as your leading article (20 February) seems to suggest. The Countryside March organisers recognise that, regrettably, there is an urban-rural divide. We seek to promote a wider understanding of the problems the countryside faces so that town and country can work together.

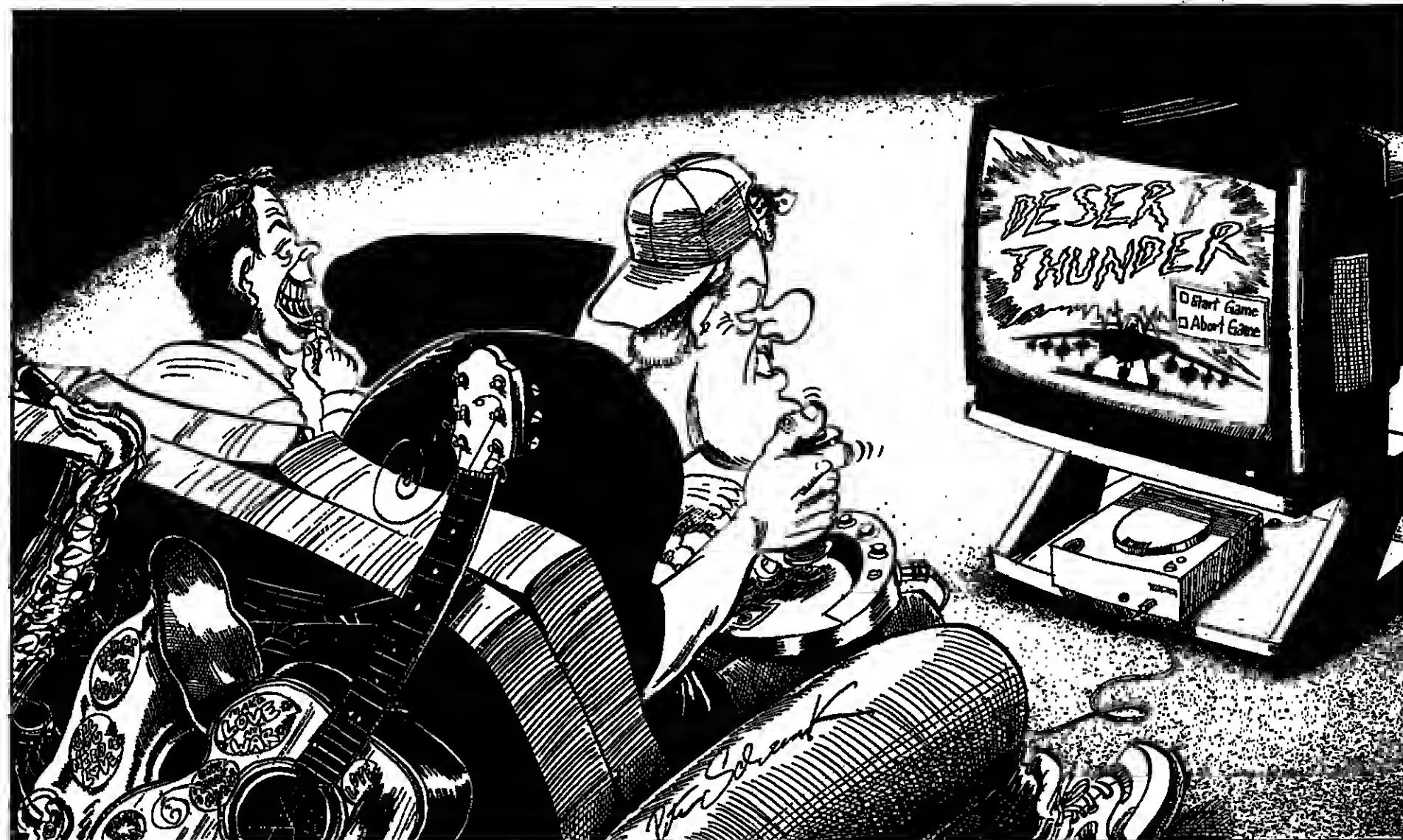
Hunting will be the focus for many, but most hunting people are also country people, and many are farmers. We all recognise the desire for more access, but believe more can be achieved by voluntary agreement than enforcement. Seeking consultation and consideration is not selfish: maintaining a viable, working countryside is as important to many urban people as it is to rural dwellers.

Tony Blair has stressed his desire to govern "one nation". Recognising that the countryside is part of that nation, the Government may need to seek compromise solutions to problems that *The Independent* presents as either/or.
ROBIN HANBURY-TENISON
Chief Executive
Countryside Alliance
London SE11

YOUR call to think about town and country together is well targeted. They are two sides of the same coin and nobody will benefit from trying to drive a wedge between them. Better protection for and wider access to the countryside will allow everyone to enjoy the best of the rural environment. And curbing the sprawl of housing over farmland will benefit the regeneration of our towns as well as our landscapes and wildlife.

Yet you risk driving a new and unnecessary wedge between meeting social and environmental objectives. The shortage of social housing is due to lack of funds, not land on which to build. Local planning authorities have earmarked land for hundreds of thousands of new homes. The problem is that housing associations and councils do not have the resources to provide the social housing which is needed and cannot protect this land from being swallowed up for market housing.

Town and country, people and the environment, would all benefit from a different approach which provides the homes we need in ways that improve the quality of urban life



and protect our rural areas for everyone to enjoy.
TONY BURTON
Assistant Director (Policy)
Council for the Protection of
Rural England
London SW1

I AND many other urban dwellers will be supporting the Countryside March, not out of particular sympathy for any individual faction represented, but because of a fear for the way democracy appears to be heading in this country.

Lobby groups use the media to engender a public fear – many are prepared to misrepresent and lie about their targets, as they believe their cause is so great that the end justifies any means – it all sells more television time and newspaper space. There is a telephone poll or two, using simplistic or loaded questions, and a demand for instant legislation to solve a problem that may never have existed. What chance for any minority to survive?

Yes, there will be fox hunters on the march. There will also be

target shooters who have lost their sport, those who would choose to eat beef on the bone, and many other diverse groups and individuals who simply want to pursue their own interests rather than forming lobby groups to attack others.
P GILBERT
Farnborough, Hampshire

UN mission to Iraq

A \$5.3bn oil-for-food programme to Iraq sounds impressive but would do little to alleviate suffering ("Annals of Iraq", 20 February).

Deducted from the previous \$2bn deal under UN Resolution 986 were war reparations (30 per cent), UN operations (5 to 10 per cent), costs of pipeline (5 to 10 per cent), and humanitarian aid earmarked for the Kurds of northern Iraq (15 per cent). If a similar pattern is followed this time, about \$2.2bn would be available over six months. This amounts to about 58 cents' worth of food and med-

icine per person per day in Central and Southern Iraq.

Adequate technology and chemicals for sanitation and medical infrastructure will, of course, continue to be disallowed. One would anticipate a small reduction in the death rate, but it will continue to be of tragic proportions.
MARK WALMSLEY
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire

IN THE first Gulf War, sanitised for the public by its Hollywood-style title "Desert Storm", the RAF suffered disproportionate losses. After further years of hedge-hopping practice here, I expect it will suffer them again. Who will justify such losses, and all the others from vaccinations and chemical and biological weapons and friendly fire, to the widows?

The very concept of a limited war needs to be questioned. As Gamal Abdel Nasser said: "For a war to be limited depends on the other side." And President Johnson once observed that the US must succeed against "that raggedy-

ass little fourth-rate country". He was describing Vietnam.
PETER HILL
Tanworth-in-Arden,
Warwickshire

Microsoft monopoly

IT IS not entirely accurate to say that increasing returns are simple economies of scale ("The simple idea that lies behind Microsoft's aim to rule the world", 19 February). Increasing returns mean that a product is more likely to succeed simply because it is more widely used. The implications of this argument for the Microsoft case are that the company becomes a "natural" monopoly, and will retain this position irrespective of market or government pressure.

What Microsoft does matters. There are too many stories of predatory or unfair conduct to ignore and the position should be properly investigated, if only to clear the air. Unfortunately the present case brought against the company by the Department of Justice need not establish that

Microsoft has broken anti-trust law, merely that it is operating outside the terms of an agreement concluded in settlement of an earlier case.

Meanwhile the rest of the world must wait and see what approach America will take to this "national champion". The view widely held by American anti-trust lawyers is that Microsoft will win its case, at which point the company may find itself under increasing pressure in other jurisdictions. The danger is that the company will either be subject to a plethora of actions and standards around the world, or will go unchecked.

America is resisting moves to introduce competition law into the World Trade Organisation remit, but a global system, which would allow a single considered approach to truly international issues, may be the most appropriate solution to cases such as Microsoft's.
MARK FURSE
Senior Lecturer in Law
University of Westminster
London W1

Private counsel

ANNABELLE THORPE's article on counselling ("Mourners in a queue to be comforted", 18 February) rather missed the point: it's free or cheap counselling that's not easy to come by, and why should it be? The public, quite rightly, expects counsellors to have had extensive training, their own therapy and to continue their professional development and supervision throughout their working life. All this has to be paid for, and, as a counsellor myself, I want to make a living too.

The NHS pays me just under £20 per session to work in GP surgeries. Patients may wait some time for an appointment, as they may do to see any other specialist, but, like any other specialist, they can see me privately much sooner if they pay my (very reasonable) £25 fee. Counsellors offer a professional service, and we expect a professional fee in return for it.
RUTH HARRISON
Aylsham, Norfolk

Global politics

TARIQ ALI makes the all-too-frequent error of dismissing the environmental and animal rights movements as single-issue politics ("What's the matter with our dumbed-down youth?", 16 February).

The struggle for animal rights is seen as part of a huge picture involving all forms of cruelty and abuse. Through animal rights, I became involved with human rights campaigns. These interests have led to my involvement in the environmental movement, which – far from dealing in a single issue – is concerned with all human activity: war, demography, education, birth control, sustainable development, pollution, agriculture, famine relief *et al.* At its core, of course, is its concern with our ability to sustain any form of life on the planet.

Local political activity does not automatically imply global ignorance or indifference. And any form of political activity against injustice should be supported – especially amongst the young. Who knows where it might lead?

KEVIN MARMAN
Herne Bay, Kent

Freemasons' motto

DAVID WALKER ("In defence of Freemasonry", 21 February) likens the Freemasons to all groups of like-minded and harmless people. He overlooks their unique motto, "Aude, Vide, Tace" – "Hear, see and be silent". This motto – which must have a practical effect – is inimical to Parliamentary democracy, to the rule of law, and to the proper administration of justice. That is why Freemasons are so much mistrusted and disliked by the rest of society.
LEO HAYNES
Northwood, Middlesex

Let us chant

J SUMNER's equation of the Lord's Prayer to a football chant is rather hollow (letter, 20 February). I have yet to meet a football fan so ardent that he would consider kneeling down before bedtime and whispering a terrace song to himself.

Considering their great beauty and antiquity, it is more accurate to compare such prayers to religious icons or frescoes. To destroy them through neglect would surely be a tragedy.
ALF LAWRIE
Barnet, Hertfordshire

Your cut-out-and-keep guide to the week ahead – whether there's a war or not



MILES KINGSTON

As we wait to hear whether the balloon is going up in the Middle East, it would make it a lot easier for us if we knew what exactly is going on, which is why today I have scrapped the column which was originally intended for this space (a fitness feature called "Get In Shape The John Prescott Way") and am bringing you instead a basic briefing for the week ahead.

If, at all times, you can bear the following facts in mind, everything else will seem clear by comparison.

1. Saddam Hussein, the President of Iraq, is a psychopath without a conscience.
2. Do not take any word for this. I am quoting from what John Major, ex-Prime Minister, said in Parliament last week. And he should know.
3. He worked closely with Margaret Thatcher.
4. So, Saddam Hussein is a psychopath without a conscience.

5. He is the sort of man who not only develops chemical weapons but uses them, not just on the Kurds, but on his own people.
6. This is psychopathic, conscience-free behaviour all right.

7. I mean, what sort of man would encourage the use of death-dealing chemicals on his own people?

8. For instance, encourage his own farmers to use organo-phosphates until they were driven to death, disease and suicide?
9. Well, John Major, actually.
10. But I digress.
11. It is established that Saddam Hussein is a psychopath with no conscience, and if we have ever watched a Hollywood film, we know what to do with that kind of psychopathic killer.
12. You ruthlessly hunt him down and kill him without hurting anyone else.
13. Unfortunately, the Americans can't do that, because their weapons system can

only hunt down and kill everyone else without hurting Saddam Hussein.

14. So instead, they are trying every diplomatic move possible.

15. Unfortunately, diplomacy is probably the worst possible approach to a psychopath, as anyone who has ever tried pacifying an armed and desperate serial killer by offering him a five-year wheat and iron ore trade agreement will testify.

16. In the long run Bill Clinton may have to listen to his military advisers.
17. What counsel will his advisers offer?
18. They will say: "Mr President, sir, we have an awful lot of military capability which is getting obsolete and which we need to update. Instead of scrapping it, why don't we drop it on Saddam? Then we can modernise our arms AND keep the military-industrial complex in work. We NEED a small war, sir. You owe it to us."
19. Bill Clinton may not take this advice.

20. He may examine his other options.

21. These other options include: sending in American planes to destroy Iraq's cable cars and cripple their skiing industry, which we know from test runs in Italy they can do with pinpoint accuracy;

22. Sending in the US ice hockey team to trash the place.

23. Forcing Saddam Hussein to stage the next Olympics and thus bankrupt Iraq.

24. Bombing Saddam's millennium Dome.

25. Incidentally, a man was arrested in the US last week on suspicion of possessing anthrax and being about to start biological terrorism.

26. He has now been released because the "anthrax" was in fact identified as a harmless vaccine used on cows.

27. So maybe the Americans have got it wrong and Saddam is making cow vaccine.

28. But if they are right, Saddam Hussein must be stopped, because no one na-

tion should be allowed to stockpile such a vast store of weapons.

29. Except of course the United States.

30. Who do actually need a vast stockpile of weapons in order to be able to bomb other nations who have a vast stockpile of arms to which they are not entitled.

31. That's it, really.

32. World opinion is so outraged by Saddam Hussein that the US's stand is being unanimously supported by the rest of the world, though only Britain has said so.

33. We are ready to go in and bomb this psychopath to kingdom come.

34. Unless, of course, Kofi Annan can hammer out an agreement with him, in which case Saddam Hussein is not a psychopath at all, but a great and responsible statesman, and we shall all breathe a lot easier until the next time this farce is played out.

35. No, I don't think he is any relation to Lord Annan.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

G7 criticism leaves Japan under pressure to boost economy

By Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

JAPAN came under stiff criticism from other members of the Group of Seven (G7) leading economies at the weekend for failing to do enough to boost its flagging economy and financial system. The tensions spilled over, unusually, outside the private meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors from the G7.

Analysts expected the forthright attitude of the other delegations to send the Japanese currency and stock market lower this week. The markets were already underwhelmed by the recent Japanese economic package of 2 trillion yen (£9.6bn) in tax cuts and additional support for the banking system.

Jonathan Coughtry, a currency strategist at Standard & Poor's MMS, said yesterday: "The markets were hoping for the G7 to come up with something substantial, and obviously that hasn't happened. I would anticipate a big run up on dollar-

yen in the first part of the week."

The dollar went into the G7 meeting at a one-month high of ¥127.80, climbing more than 1 per cent on Friday after the Japanese government disappointed financial markets by failing to include any tax cuts or new spending plans in its latest economy-boosting package.

Analysts also expect further falls in the stock market. In the past week the benchmark Nikkei 225 index fell 34.77, or 0.21 per cent, to 16,756.24.

The official G7 communiqué issued late on Saturday said: "In the view of the IMF, there is now a strong case for fiscal stimulus to support activity during 1998." Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, chairing the G7 meeting in London, said: "There was a good deal of support for that statement."

The Chancellor said the other G7 countries welcomed the measures the Japanese government had announced last Friday, but added: "Recovery will require continued action."

Earlier, Robert Rubin, the US

Treasury Secretary, said the need to restore stability in South-east Asia made strong domestic demand growth important in all G7 countries, but especially Japan.

The meeting did agree on the need to avoid an excessive weakening of the yen, which some analysts fear could exacerbate the trade imbalance between Japan and the US. The statement said the G7 had agreed to monitor the currency markets and "co-operate as appropriate", a conventional shot across the bows of the foreign exchange markets.

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, sent the markets a signal that this would be an especial concern in the coming months. He said: "I think the concern was as much about the prospective imbalance in the world economy as a result of Asia looking forward, rather than anything to do with the situation immediately."

On a separate issue it was the Germans who were isolated, as the other six countries agreed to speed up debt relief for the world's poorest countries. The



Japan's markets are expected to fall further this week in the wake of the G7 meeting in London. Photograph: Rui Xavier

Germans admitted they had been shaken by a postcard campaign by development charities, whose supporters have been writing to Theo Weigel, the Finance Minister, urging the Germans to be less intransigent in their opposition to help for heavily indebted poor countries.

At this weekend's meeting, Italy and Japan, which normally side with the Germans on this

issue, went along with the UK's desire to make a fresh commitment to further progress before the year 2000.

Mr Brown announced that the finance ministers, who are holding a series of meetings during the next few months, would report back to the G7 leaders at the full summit in Birmingham in May. As part of this "Birmingham Process", the Chancellor

is likely to tour the affected Asian countries this spring.

Despite the concern about the feeble state of the Japanese economy, on which the whole Asian recovery will depend, the ministers stuck to their view that the spillover to their own countries would be "manageable". There was a welcome for the statement by export credit agencies at the

weekend that export credit guarantees to the region, worth about \$15bn (£9bn) last year, would be sustained in 1998.

The G7 agreed an action plan for preventing future crises. The key points were improved supervision of the international financial markets, an emphasis on better disclosure of economic data, and a strengthening of financial systems.

Barclays fails to deny talk rumours

By John Willcock

STANDARD Chartered shares are set to soar again this week following the failure yesterday of Barclays Bank to deny week-end press reports that it had held merger talks with the international bank.

It is understood that Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, had dinner with Malcolm Williamson, his opposite number at Standard Chartered, two weeks ago, at which the possibility of a merger was suggested by Mr Taylor. Mr Williamson promised to mention it to his board. When the story hit the dealing rooms last Friday Standard's share price rose 45.5p to 764.5p.

The City rumour mill was further excited by talk that Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat, the Malaysian millionaire, may be about to sell his 15 per cent stake in Standard which he bought in 1986 - as one of three "white knights" who helped to refinance a bid from Lloyds Bank. It is understood that if Tan Sri Khoo does intend to sell, he has not informed Standard of his intention so far.

A spokeswoman for Barclays said yesterday reports of talks with Standard were "market speculation. There's an awful lot of speculation in the banking sector at the moment. As a policy we don't comment on it."

A spokeswoman for Standard Chartered said: "We don't comment on market speculation. We're not in discussions with anyone."

Standard has become the subject of bid talk not least because its share price was swayed late last year by the Asian financial crisis. Ironically, that share dive helped to scare off Deutsche Bank, which had been considering a link with Standard. The crisis halved Standard's share price, which bottomed out at just over 540p this January.

Mr Taylor's comments at Barclays' results briefing last week were interpreted in the City as distancing the bank from earlier attempts to merge with NatWest. In particular, Mr Taylor said that he "expected consolidation in the banking sector internationally in the next few years", a remark which observers seized on as suggesting that a link with Standard may be on the cards.

Standard's market capitalisation stands at £7.6bn, suggesting any bid would have to be for well over £8bn, according to analysts.

Privately, Barclays is irritated at the City's perception that it has to do a deal, in some form or another, following its retreat from investment banking and the sale of most of BZW.

Texas set to trump Pacificorp offer for Energy this week

By Clifford German

TEXAS Utilities is expected to bid 800p a share this week for Energy Group, formerly Hanson's energy division, in a last-minute bid to trump the existing 765p a share offer from another US group, Pacificorp.

Pacificorp's bid was given the green light earlier this month by regulators both in the US and UK.

In practice, analysts say Texas has until 9 March, the first closing date for the Pacificorp offer in the US, to make a rival offer or see Pacificorp start winning approval by default. Texas last week secured permission to bid from the Texas Public Utility Commission.

Texas has also lined up the sale of Peabody, Energy's US coal-mining business, to Lehman Merchant, the development capital arm of its financial advisers Lehman Brothers. Texas wants to make the \$1.6bn (£970m) sale in order both to help finance the offer and also to avoid referral to the US Federal Trade Commission, and the delays that would cause.

If Texas puts an offer on the table for Energy in the next 10 days it could be followed by an offer document within a week,

according to City sources, and the deal could go through in the next two to three months.

Texas has studied the report of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC), which last year cleared Pacificorp to bid for Energy, and will frame its own bid to meet those criteria. Advisers to Texas admit, however, that any decision to refer its bid to the MMC would be fatal: shareholders in Energy would be unlikely to wait six months to win the approval of the MMC in the hope of securing an extra 5 per cent from Texas.

Texas rejects rival claims that it would be unable to raise the \$6.75bn cash needed to finance a counter-bid without a massive rights issue. It argues that it is a bigger and financially stronger company than Pacificorp and that it could quickly raise the bank finance to mount a bid and replace it later with equity.

Texas has also indicated it would want Energy's chief executive, John Devaney, and finance director, Eric Anstee, to stay after a takeover. Pacificorp had offered Mr Devaney the post of chief operating officer of the combined group.

Merrill Lynch and Lehman Brothers are advising Texas on its proposed bid.

Directors to share £10m from 'Lloyd's List' float

By Peter Thal Larsen

FOUR DIRECTORS of LLP Group, the information company which publishes Lloyd's List and Insurance Day, will share more than £10m when the company floats on the Stock Exchange in the spring.

Four executive directors control 10 per cent of the company, which is likely to be priced between £120m-£130m. They include Stuart Wallis, who was chief executive of drug group Fisons when it was taken over by Rhône-Poulenc, the French chemicals giant. Chief executive David Gilbertson, finance director Peter Miller and deputy chairman Ian Lindsay-Smith will also share in the bonanza.

LLP's management bought the company from Lloyd's, the insurance market, for £82.5m in

December 1995 with backing from venture capitalists 3i. At the time, they are thought to have fought off rival bids from publishing groups including Reed Elsevier.

Another 15 per cent of the share capital is divided between the employees. Almost two-thirds of the company's 540 staff have either shares or options in the company.

Mr Wallis said the company needed a stock market listing to allow its backers to realise some of their investment, and to give its employee shareholders a market for their shares. The company is also planning to expand into new products and titles, though it has not yet decided how much new money it plans to raise.

LLP has three divisions: news and commercial, reference and professional and data

analysis. The company has four offices in the UK and another four overseas, serving over 75,000 in 180 countries. In the year to last December, the company made an operating profit of £10.3m on turnover of £48.4m.

Its flagship publication, Lloyd's List, was first published in 1734. However, the company has used the brand to launch a whole host of related publications, as well as books, directories, a conference programme and a range of corporate gifts.

No final date has been set for the flotation, though Mr Wallis said the company would probably wait until the Budget was out of the way. He said the company had grown quite quickly, making several acquisitions in the two years since the buyout.



LLP's chairman, Stuart Wallis, and David Gilbertson, the chief executive, intend to float the group this spring

New markets expose business travellers to rising risks

By John Willcock

BRITISH business travellers are venturing to some of the most dangerous places on Earth, risking car jacking, mugging and poisoning, as UK trade grows sharply in some of the world's most unsafe countries.

A business travel insurance company ETI has surveyed a number of countries where trade

with Britain has risen dramatically between 1992-1996, and paints a blood-curdling picture.

Albania, the Congo and Brazil are among the top 10 countries where trade links have boomed. They are also among the most dangerous places in the world for travellers, according to ETI.

UK exports to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia grew in

1992-6 by well over 800 per cent - in Lithuania's case by 1,272 per cent. Their "ETI Ratings", where 1 is "very low risk" and 10 "very high risk", range from 5 for Estonia, to 6 for Latvia and 7 for Lithuania. The latter's main problems are "mugging, dragging and pickpocketing", according to ETI.

Meanwhile, Albania has grown fourth-fastest in export terms, and scores 10 for danger, with armed gangs and car jacking a common threat, according to the research.

The Congo, seventh in the export league, scores 9, while Brazil at tenth scores 8.

ETI tells the story of a businessman who recently went to Moscow. He hired a taxi from Moscow airport to his hotel. During the trip the taxi was

pulled over by another car, and two men came out of the other car, took his wallet and briefcase and beat him up.

"The next day ETI arranged for the money to be transferred to him through the Western Union. When the client picked up the money at the bank, he had only walked 100 meters down the street when he was mugged again."

Utilities braced as Government plans new tax on 'excess' profits

By Michael Harrison

THE GOVERNMENT will next month set out proposals to tax the "excess" profits of the privatised water, electricity, gas and telecoms companies as part of a radical overhaul of utility regulation.

The proposals will be contained in a Green Paper from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), which had been due to be published this Thursday.

However, publication has been delayed until mid March because of a Whitehall battle between the DTI and the Treasury, which is under-

stood to want to link the Green Paper proposals to a fresh deal to preserve the British coal industry.

The Paymaster-General, Geoffrey Robinson, brokered an agreement before Christmas giving the country's biggest coal producer, RJB Mining, a three-month stay of execution after complaints with the electricity industry expire in April.

He is keen to put together a long-term deal involving the generators and electricity supply companies in order to avert up to eight pit closures and the loss of 5,000 jobs at RJB.

The proposal to tax the excess profits of the utilities is sure to prove

controversial. The industries involved were given to believe that the Government had dealt with the matter with the windfall tax. The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, raised £5.3bn through the levy in his first Budget last July.

It is not clear how much detail the Green Paper will contain on what constitutes "excess" profit, how it would be taxed and what proportion shareholders might be allowed to retain. The proposal, if implemented, would also herald a sea-change to the existing regulatory regime. Under present arrangements, prices are capped, not

profits. The price caps imply an allowed rate of return for each industry but if individual companies can do better than that they are free to retain the extra profit earned.

Whitehall insiders believe that they can overcome industry opposition to the move by arguing that it will provide regulatory certainty. "Companies are aware that at some point in the future excess profits could accrue. By setting up a mechanism for dealing with that, it reduces regulatory risk for the utilities," one adviser said.

However, a spokesman for the Electricity Association warned: "We

are absolutely clear that the issue of excess profits has been settled once and for all. A line was drawn under this with the windfall tax and we would vigorously oppose any such proposal."

The regional electricity companies also question whether there will be any scope to extract excess profits from customers once the supply market is thrown open to competition. According to one estimate, each domestic customer signed up outside a REC's franchise market will contribute just £5 a year extra to profits.

The Energy Minister, John

Battle, has instituted a review of energy policy which will include an examination of the balance of fuel sources for electricity generation. But he is thought to be anxious not to embroil the proposals on utility regulation with any measures to underpin one sector of the market such as the coal industry.

Other DTI sources point out that it would be unrealistic for Mr Robinson to use the Green Paper as a bargaining chip to secure a deal for the coal industry since the paper will need to be approved by the full Cabinet and signed off by the Prime Minister, Tony Blair.

The DTI paper will also address the need for the regulatory system to protect poor and socially disadvantaged customers.

Although it has been reported that the Treasury is opposed to the idea of a £100m levy, raised from electricity companies and their customers, to help poorer consumers, Whitehall sources insisted the paper would include measures to tackle the issue.

Other proposals will include splitting the RECs' supply arms from their distribution businesses and merging the electricity and gas regulators, Ofreg and Ofgas.

STOCK MARKETS

| Index | Close | Wk's chg | Wk's chg% | 52 wk high | 52 wk low | Yield(%) |
|----------------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|
| FTSE 100 | 5751.80 | 189.30 | 3.03 | 5744.7 | 4189.1 | 3.123 |
| FTSE 250 | 5029.70 | 39.50 | 0.79 | 5018.1 | 4384.2 | 3.094 |
| FTSE 350 | 2723.60 | 66.90 | 2.62 | 2729.7 | 2075.7 | 3.118 |
| FTSE All Share | 2660.48 | 64.63 | 2.49 | 2656.53 | 2056.07 | 3.102 |
| FTSE SmallCap | 2438.00 | 12.00 | 0.50 | 2434.9 | 2182.1 | 3.261 |
| FTSE Floating | 1331.80 | 14.40 | 1.09 | 1348.5 | 1226.2 | 3.263 |
| FTSE AIM | 1005.20 | 3.30 | 0.33 | 1138 | 865.9 | 0.983 |
| Dow Jones | 8413.34 | 43.84 | 0.52 | 8451.81 | 6356.78 | 1.655 |
| Nikkei | 16753.24 | 34.77 | 0.21 | 20310.79 | 14488.21 | 0.91 |
| Hang Seng | 10692.79 | 325.19 | 3.17 | 16820.31 | 7909.13 | 3.704 |
| Dax | 4602.65 | 100.17 | 2.23 | 4633.01 | 3171.05 | 1.664 |

INTEREST RATES

| Year | 1 year bank rate | 6 month bank rate |
|------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1980 | 12.00 | 10.00 |
| 1981 | 11.50 | 9.50 |
| 1982 | 11.00 | 9.00 |
| 1983 | 10.50 | 8.50 |
| 1984 | 10.00 | 8.00 |
| 1985 | 9.50 | 7.50 |
| 1986 | 9.00 | 7.00 |
| 1987 | 8.50 | 6.50 |

| Year | 1 year bank rate | 6 month bank rate |
|------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1980 | 12.00 | 10.00 |
| 1981 | 11.50 | 9.50 |
| 1982 | 11.00 | 9.00 |
| 1983 | 10.50 | 8.50 |
| 1984 | 10.00 | 8.00 |
| 1985 | 9.50 | 7.50 |
| 1986 | 9.00 | 7.00 |
| 1987 | 8.50 | 6.50 |

| Money Market Rates | | | | |
|--------------------|---------|------|----------|-------|
| | 3 month | 1 yr | 1 yr chg | % chg |
| UK | 7.56 | 1.30 | 7.53 | 0.84 |
| US | 5.63 | 0.15 | 5.67 | -0.11 |
| Japan | 0.86 | 0.36 | 0.61 | 0.24 |
| Germany | 3.50 | 0.30 | 3.75 | 0.50 |

| Bond Yields | | | | |
|-------------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|
| | 18 year | 1 yr chg | Long bond | 1 yr chg |
| UK | 5.96 | -1.13 | 5.92 | -1.37 |
| US | 5.84 | -0.84 | 5.87 | -0.78 |
| Japan | 1.90 | -0.69 | 2.51 | -0.67 |
| Germany | 4.96 | -0.96 | 5.84 | -0.78 |

| MAIN PRICE CHANGES | | | | Falls | | | |
|--------------------|-------|----------|-------|-------------|-------|----------|--------|
| | Price | Wk's chg | % chg | | Price | Wk's chg | % chg |
| Orange | 358 | 48 | 13.42 | BA Holdings | 800 | -440 | -35.48 |
| Powerscreen | 245.5 | 28.5 | 13.66 | Biochem | 149.5 | -65.5 | -30.47 |
| Pizzagroup | 777.5 | 91.5 | 13.34 | Medeva | 143 | -22 | -13.30 |
| Glynwed | 281.5 | 30 | 12.96 | Bass | 934 | -119.4 | -11.33 |

CURRENCIES

| Pound | | | | Dollar | | | |
|---------|--------|----------|---------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Friday | Wk's chg | % chg | | Friday | Wk's chg | % chg |
| Dollar | 1.6377 | -0.076 | -1.8123 | Sterling | 0.6106 | +0.030 | 0.6202 |
| D-Mark | 2.9687 | +2.495 | 2.7174 | D-Mark | 1.8228 | +1.370 | 1.8662 |
| Yen | 209.57 | +45.19 | 19.57 | Yen | 127.85 | +13.25 | 122.51 |
| £ index | 104.30 | -0.60 | -0.74 | £ index | 108.80 | 0.90 | 103.80 |

| OTHER INDICATORS | | | | Index | | | |
|------------------|--------|----------|---------|------------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Close | Wk's chg | % chg | | Close | Wk's chg | % chg |
| Brent Oil (\$) | 13.57 | -0.43 | -20.46 | GDP | 113.90 | 3.10 | 110.48 |
| Gold (\$) | 297.25 | -2.60 | -350.75 | RPI | 159.50 | 3.30 | 154.40 |
| Silver (\$) | 8.77 | -0.24 | -5.16 | Base Rates | 7.25 | 6.00 | |

TOURIST RATES

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------|------------------------|--------|
| Australia (dollars) | 2.3484 | Italy (lira) | 2.865 |
| Austria (schillings) | 20.32 | Japan (yen) | 205.57 |
| Belgium (francs) | 39.75 | Malta (lira) | 0.6289 |
| Canada (\$) | 2.2726 | Netherlands (guilders) | 3.2556 |
| Cyprus (pounds) | 0.8444 | Norway (kroner) | 12.12 |
| Denmark (kroner) | 11.09 | Portugal (escudos) | 204.68 |
| Finland (markka) | 8.8381 | Spain (pesetas) | 244.67 |
| France (francs) | 9.6954 | South Africa (rand) | 7.7633 |
| Germany (marks) | 2.9026 | Sweden (kroner) | 12.90 |
| Greece (drachmes) | 457.92 | Switzerland (francs) | 2.3499 |
| Hong Kong (\$) | 12.31 | Turkey (lira) | 358.36 |
| India (rupees) | 1.161 | USA (\$) | 1.6008 |

Sources: Thomson Data
Rates for information purposes only

Barclays
fails to
deny talk
rumours

ANDREW
DILNOT

ON THE
TROUBLE
WITH
PIECEMEAL
CHANGES TO
TAX SYSTEMS

The need to keep fiscal reforms simple

THE TAX system is a mess. Not just in Britain, but in most countries. The road to this mess was paved with good intentions. But what we see is massive and ever-growing tax legislation, apparently similar activities being taxed in different ways: distortion of consumption, investment, saving, working and retiring; unfairness, and tax avoidance.

The natural response is simply to change the system. A new piece of anti-avoidance legislation here, a new tax relief to encourage the thing we really want more of there. Lobby groups will call for the changes and it seems so easy. After all, tax systems are sets of rules, so when we change them, individuals and companies have to respond.

The rules do have to be obeyed, but that doesn't mean we achieve the outcome we want. If we give a tax subsidy for corporate research and development (R&D) spending, we will see more R&D spending in company accounts, but much of it may simply be a redefinition of activities that are happening anyway. If we seek to encourage investment by giving new tax reliefs for one way of financing investment (say, by raising equity) we will see a shift in financing from debt to equity rather than necessarily any more total investment. If we seek to encourage investment by a temporary increase in investment allowances (as in the early 1990s), we will see investment that was going to happen anyway packed into the period of temporary allowances, with low investment either side.

Once all the relabelling, refinancing, and rescheduling has occurred, and much of the cost has also gone to those who were already doing whatever is to be encouraged, there may be some genuine change in real behaviour which meets the true objectives of the reform.

None of this should be taken to imply that the tax system now is perfect and shouldn't be changed. What we have now is unfair, inefficient and massively complex and distortionary. But responding by piecemeal change without an absolutely clear underlying strategy risks simply making things worse. And before any change is made it is vital to consider all the ways in which it won't work, will be abused, diverted and distorted. Because, however good the intentions of policymakers, many taxpayers will seek to find the best ways of legitimately minimising their tax liabilities.

We can see these problems spectacularly in the field of the taxation of savings. Early in their period of office, the last Conservative government felt that more funding for risky small companies would be desirable, so they introduced a tax relief called the business expansion scheme (BES). The BES eventually grew rapidly, but ways were found of using the scheme to invest in highly non-risky assets such as fine wine and property. By the close of the scheme, universities were using BES to finance student accommodation. The BES was eventually abolished.

Schemes aimed at the other end of the savings market have had similarly che-

quered experience. Personal equity plans (PEPs) were introduced in 1987 aimed at encouraging direct equity investment. Very little happened until the government relented and allowed individuals to hold unit trusts in PEPs. Tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) were introduced with the aim of encouraging those on lower incomes to save. Being on a low income will typically mean that you can't afford to save at all, let alone put money away for the five-year minimum holding of a Tessa. Little wonder that only 3 per cent of the poorest 20 per cent of the population has a Tessa, and that most of the money that went into Tessas seemed simply to come from pre-existing saving rather than be new in any way.

And these schemes can appear to be successful as Tessas did, although probably producing little new saving. The best example was perhaps personal pensions. When these were introduced, the government thought that an extra tax incentive would be necessary to encourage people, although still expecting a maximum of half a million takers in the first year. Five million individuals took out personal pensions in the first year, taking the large incentive payment on offer, and only a third saved any money of their own. The cost to the government was some £9bn, a quarter of the annual NHS budget.

What does the taxation of saving look like now? We have the enterprise investment scheme, occupational pensions and personal pensions, PEPs, Tessas, National Savings, direct holding of shares, and interest-bearing

accounts. All these have different tax treatments, and are listed in rough order of generosity of tax treatment.

And yet saving is above all something where we would not want the tax system to be determining choices. We save because we want to be able to consume in the future. So we care little about the vehicle in which we save, except about the rate of return we expect, the risk and how accessible it is. Different tax treatments will have an enormous impact on how we save. But we would want the choice of savings vehicles to be determined by the underlying investments, not the tax regime. So, rather than the variation we see in tax treatment, we would be better off with a uniform tax structure.

Perhaps surprisingly, we have moved some way towards that in recent years, but could move further. If the tax-free lump sum in pension taxation were removed, and the remainder of Miras taken away, these two assets, which form the great bulk of personal wealth and saving, would be taxed much as Tessas and PEPs are now. The large remaining distortion would then be the continued taxation of interest income.

Taxing interest income is economically inefficient when we do not tax the return to saving in pensions, housing, or equity held in PEPs. It also penalises those on low incomes, who if they save at all, tend to save in interest-bearing assets. So the Individual Savings Account (ISA) fits well into a coherent strategy for taxing saving, and is generally welcome. Tessas were not attractive

to those on low incomes because of the five-year lock-in, and ISAs should avoid that.

But the initial proposal for ISAs sought to pay for tax deductibility of interest income by imposing limits on the lifetime level of contribution to ISAs and what could be brought over from Tessas and PEPs. Aside from administrative and compliance problems (which could be substantial), this falls into the trap of not taking seriously enough how individuals would respond. The idea that those with more than £50,000 in a PEP would leave the excess hanging around waiting for the taxman when they had the option of enterprise investment schemes, venture capital trusts, additional voluntarily contributions to pension schemes, or buying a larger house, to say nothing of more adventurous tax planning, is almost funny.

If the ISA proposal is amended coherently during the consultation period, the final scheme will be welcome. Even then, ISAs are unlikely to increase aggregate savings much, or to encourage many on low incomes to save for the first time. But they would have the merit of fitting into a sensible aim, equal taxation of all forms of savings. It is these general aims we need to be clear about, rather than frenzied production of impressive sounding schemes that add complexity and distortion while achieving little. The test for the March 17 Budget is how coherent it will seem in five years, not how impressive it sounds on the evening of Budget Day.

Andrew Dilnot is the director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

CBI offers strategies to beat millennium bug chaos

By Clifford German

SUPERMARKET cash tills may not work, car-park barriers could get stuck, accounting programmes could add up to 100 years extra interest to bank accounts, traffic lights may fail and time locks and security devices may block access if computers are not fully prepared for the start of the new century, Peter Agar, the deputy-director-general of the CBI will warn business today.

Just one unprepared company in a supermarket supply chain could mean the food not reaching the shelves on time, said Mr Agar.

The millennium time-bomb will affect all companies, but there are common solutions to the problem and companies can learn from one another. To stimulate companies to act now the CBI has produced a brief which outlines what four lead-

ing UK companies, Sainsbury, Rover, GRE and Yorkshire Electricity, have done to get ready for the year 2000.

Robin Guenier, the former chief executive of the Government's Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency, and now executive director of Taskforce 2000, is calling on the Government to use its position as President of the European Union to for a postponement of monetary union. "It is increasingly obvious that inadequate time and resources are making it impossible to deal with EMU and year 2000 computer projects at the same time," he said.

Martin Krajewski, chief executive of the Blomfield Group and a member of the City's Millennium Forum, also wants EMU delayed. But City economists polled by *The Independent* last week were virtually unanimous that the point of no return has already been passed.

Barclays forecasts further rate rises

By Clifford German

UK interest rates may still have to rise in order to keep inflation on target, according to Chris Wright, the economics director at Barclays Bank.

Underlying inflation fell to 2.5 per cent in January, in line with the Government's target, but the current low level was due largely to the strength of

sterling, which was holding down the cost of imported goods and raw materials, said Mr Wright.

"Domestically generated inflation is above the target level and shows little if any sign of slowing," Mr Wright argues in the latest issue of the Bank's quarterly economic review. "In particular, the pace of wage increases is rising, and looks set

to climb further unless domestic demand slows sharply."

Output grew by 3.3 per cent last year, unemployment fell, inflation was broadly stable and the current account moved into surplus for the first time since 1985. But manufacturing output declined in the fourth quarter with exporters worst affected, but the domestic economy prospered and wage

settlements rose. "This contrast is likely to become increasingly stark in the first half of this year," he writes.

There is no obvious case for adjusting the tax balance in the Budget, Mr Wright says. But the bank expects growth to slow to 2.5 per cent this year and 1.3 per cent in 1999, while the current account shows a £6bn deficit this year and £7bn next.

Siemens wins £180m gas-turbine contract in Scotland

By John Willcock

SIEMENS AG, Germany's largest electronics and engineering company, said its KWT energy unit has won the contract to install new gas turbines at Peterhead Power Station, the Scottish steam power plant owned by Hydro-Electric. Siemens said the contract to increase efficiency and cut pol-

lution is worth £170-£180m. Work will start in late spring.

Siemens said its main construction contract is to design, manufacture, erect, integrate and set to work the new plant at Peterhead, and the total cost of the project will be £230m.

The German engineering giant said the order is its seventh-largest for a power plant

station's efficiency by 50, Hydro-Electric said.

Siemens said its main construction contract is to design, manufacture, erect, integrate and set to work the new plant at Peterhead, and the total cost of the project will be £230m.

The German engineering giant said the order is its seventh-largest for a power plant

in Britain since the opening up of the UK electricity market to competition in the beginning of the 1990s.

Dr James Martin, director of generation at Hydro-Electric, said: "The project represents the first re-powering of a major power station in the UK, although the technology has been individually proven in Europe and the US."

Financial services' bonuses fail to reward performance

BONUSES paid in the financial services sector do not operate in the way they are meant to, according to a survey by an employee benefits consultancy published this week. Less than half of the companies in the survey linked performance to reward. William M Mercer also found bonus payments are expected to continue to increase over the next two years by more than half of those firms questioned. Nearly 80 per cent of firms said that they offer at least one bonus opportunity to all their employees, while 85 per cent of schemes were considered to be easy to administer and manage, and provide value for money, according to the participants.

Pound hammers engineers

BRITAIN'S engineering industry is likely to suffer from the strength of sterling even more than manufacturing industry as a whole, according to a report from the Foundation for Manufacturing and Industry today. Exports account for 75 per cent of engineering sales compared with 43 per cent for manufacturing, according to the FMI economist Jane Croft.

Warning on MBOs successes

MANAGEMENT buyouts are not always successful, according to a report "MBOs - No Guaranteed Riches" by the Warwick Business School and accountants Ernst & Young, published today. "It is only after the deal that the different agendas of the principal participants can start to pull in different directions," says Alan Bloom, head of E&Y's corporate recovery practice.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

FAX: 0171 293 2505

Franchises

Formula 1

Pirtek is the largest franchise in the hydraulic hose replacement business with: ▶ A 100% successful business formula ▶ Full management and marketing support ▶ Nationwide opportunities to purchase existing centres and green field sites

Call our Franchise Director now on: **0181 749 6777**

PIRTEK UK LTD, 35 ACTON PARK ESTATE, THE VILE, ACTON, LONDON W3 7QE

PIRTEK hoses & assemblies

FRANCHISE OF THE YEAR

Franchises

MOLLY MAID.

Secure Your Future With Molly Maid

What do you want in a business?

- A Proven Business System - Molly Maid has been operating in the UK since 1985
- To Meet a Universal, Ongoing Need - Dust falls every day in every home!
- Low Investment and Overheads - Franchise fee £7,800 + VAT and there's little working capital
- Regular, Repeat Business - Molly Maid Franchisees build their businesses on a loyal customer base
- Good Cashflow - Molly Maid is a cash business with little seasonality
- Support and Training - Molly Maid provides extensive on-going support from former franchisees plus regular re-training programmes.

To find out more, call free on 0800 500 950

BRITISH FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION FULL MEMBER

auditel

You should be talking to us...

ABOUT:

- An opportunity to work for yourself
- A stable career environment
- A home office base
- An exciting and varied market
- Director-level clients
- Full training and support
- Personal and professional development
- Independence, set part of a team
- Earning what you know you are worth
- Low operating costs
- High income potential
- Long term future
- Guaranteed income
- Diversified income streams

...in other words, being in control of your own career.

As such, you will become an indispensable part of your client's management team and with an ever broadening range of cost management services, you can be assured of a long-term business with superb profit potential.

If you have a dynamic entrepreneurial spirit and like to play detective, you'll really enjoy being an Auditel Cost Management Consultant.

So let's start talking. Investment of £15,950 + VAT. Call us now on 01962 863915. Or write for further details to: Auditel (UK) Ltd, 39 Southgate Street, Winchester, SO23 9EH. Fax: 01962 854420. Email: info@auditel.co.uk

SPORTSWEAR MAKES MONEY!

Would you be interested in taking on a well established franchise that costs £4995 wholesaling SPORTSWEAR or FASHIONS? Then get FREE INFORMATION from our FAX ON DEMAND line: 01204 523934 or check our web site on <http://www.linxtrading.co.uk> or you could even ask for it to be posted by phoning us 01204 524541.

Talk to us, talk to our franchisees, above all, get the information now

Linx Trading Limited

Business for Sale

RETIREMENT SALE

Wholesale Patisserie in West Country

Established 1972. Same owners last 10 years. 2000 sq. ft. modern, well equipped unit. Leasehold premises.

Current rent £10,000 p.a. Sales last financial year £425,000. GP 52%. High class clientele. Excellent opportunity for further growth and development.

Price: £150,000 plus stock at valuation

Initial enquiries via message service on: 04325 170128

Business for Sale

CLUB FOR SALE - NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Capacity 450 people. Free trade. T/O circa. 150k p.a. wet sales. Mainly weekends. Recently refurbished. 7 bedrooms lettable. Massive potential on top of existing trade. Owing to retirement sale.

£265,000 freehold

Existing brewery finance package available

Tel. 01623 456617

Selling A Business?

Contact the Mergers and Acquisitions Team on

Tel: 01242 237661 Fax: 01242 584263

<http://www.hazlewoods.co.uk>

Authorised to carry out investment business by The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

Services

DEBT PROBLEMS?

LIFT THE DESPAIR OF THREATENING LETTERS

CALL DEBT SOLUTIONS

WE'LL FIGHT FOR YOU & REDUCE THE BURDEN

LICENSED DEBT ADJUSTERS
OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

PHONE 07900 780523
CHARTWELL FINANCIAL LTD.

Express STICKY PRINTS

BRILLIANT SELF ADHESIVE COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS ON AN EASY TO PEEL BACKING SHEET.

Produced from negatives, photographs or slides. Express sticky prints are available in a range of 6 convenient sizes from £4.50/100.

For further information and prices please call or write to: (Please note we are not) PINKHAMP PHOTO SERVICES LTD, LINDA PINKHAM, 100, EAST PARADE, LULLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE. e-mail: Sticky@pinkham.co.uk TEL: 01943 602128 FAX 01943 604343

Business for Sale

SERIOUS INCOME OPPORTUNITY

For High Flyers.

Established, ethical and very lucrative home/office based. Unique Marketing System.

Call **0800 458 6933**

AND LISTEN

Opportunities

High-income territories now available

Operate in a fast expanding dynamic environment with a product & service in constant demand. And get full management and marketing support. If you want to take part in the best supported, most dynamic, constantly moving business currently available in the hydraulic industry then contact Status today and take your first step towards realising your full potential.

Ring the Franchise Director on 01352 750333 (day) or 01625 820047 (eve) or write to:

Status Hydraulics Ltd
Status House
Cambridge Business Park
Mild, Flintshire CH7 1XB

STATUS HYDRAULICS

Services

What happens to the phones when you leave your office?

Make our office your office. For personal call answering and other ways to transform your business.

messagemail

0800 376 0044

INVEST IN PROPERTY WITHOUT RISK

- Minimum investment £3000
- For one month
- Guaranteed return
- No risk venture
- Non-speculative investment
- Funds held by solicitors

Contact Chainbreakers on **01780 480730/480337**

PERMANENT U.S. RESIDENCY

GREEN CARD IN 6 TO 8 MONTHS

£95,000 WITH REQUIRED NET WORTH

FREE INFO PACKET

01420 549262 M-F 9 TO 5

Amazing!

£150-1500 p.w. quality being earned home-based, full or part-time. Car and phone essential. Don't just sit there!

FREE REPORT: 0800 458 0010 (24hrs, leave details)

WANT TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS?

Home based, profitable concept with enormous potential.

Not MLM or Franchising

Call 0181 236 4558 and listen

Time to take fraud seriously

Accountants are leading the way in dealing with white-collar crime, writes George Staple

TWO important recommendations of the Roskill Committee on Fraud Trials, which sat in the mid-Eighties, did not find a place in the legislation that followed. One urged that juries should no longer try cases of serious and complex fraud, and the other that a commission should be set up to monitor the system for detecting, investigating and prosecuting fraud.

The first has received much attention over the years since Roskill, culminating last week in a consultation paper from the Home Office. The idea of a fraud commission has, however, gone largely unno-

ticed. Such a body, which Roskill proposed should exist within the machinery of government but with outside members, would contribute to the reputation of financial markets, and would study and advise on the efficiency of the way fraud cases were dealt with in the UK. In particular it would keep an eye on cost effectiveness and the time that cases were taking. It would inquire into breakdowns in the system and assess the possibility of improvements by change of policy and procedure or the introduction of more efficient techniques. It would provide a degree of co-ordination between the numerous interests involved and publish an annual report.

It is a pity that the idea was not pursued. Quangos have not been popular since Lady Thatcher was prime minister, but if some of the controversial cases of recent years had come under the spotlight of a fraud commission, much public misunderstanding of the way in which the system was working might have been avoided. So the



The Guinness case renewed fears about the use of juries in complex fraud trials Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

initiative of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in setting up the Fraud Advisory Panel is a welcome step in this direction. Indeed in some respects it will go further than Roskill's proposal for a commission.

The Institute has recognised that there is a shortage of reliable information about the extent and nature of fraud. A much more detailed picture of the overall problem is

needed. Only then will it be possible to see where resources should be targeted.

The shortage of information is partly due to businesses which fall victim to fraud not reporting it. To do so can disclose failures in management systems and indeed can sometimes reduce the chances of recovering the money. But it is also partly due to the fragmentation of the system for dealing

with fraud. In addition to the police and the financial regulators, who are responsible for investigating fraud, no fewer than eight government departments are responsible for investigating and prosecuting fraud. Some of these, together with the police, banks, the legal and accountancy professions, academics and some major companies are represented on the new Fraud Advisory Panel.

The panel has set up three working parties, the first of which will gather information on fraud. The second will be concerned with raising awareness of the problem, investigating methods of prevention and providing advice to business. The third will look at the effectiveness of existing methods of investigation and prosecution. More than 50 different organisations concerned with fraud are represented.

We are approaching the point in the economic cycle when, if history is anything to go by, business failures increase. That is when fraud has tended to occur, or at least become apparent. Shareholders will expect that companies have learnt the lessons of recent years and that improved management systems are in place to prevent fraud.

Successive governments have encouraged ordinary families to invest their savings in the equity markets and make personal provision for the pensions. Since it came into office, the Government has devoted considerable attention to financial regulation, which of course exists to prevent fraud and protect the integrity of markets. However, a number of ministerial statements, in particular from the Solicitor General, Lord Falconer, in his Denning Lecture last October, have indicated that the Government is no less concerned about the law relating to the investigation and prosecution of fraud and related offences. This is very much to be welcomed, and is a reflection of the fact that not only are shareholders entitled as a matter of good corporate governance to expect that businesses include within their management systems effective fraud controls, but also that the criminal justice system is as effective as we can possibly make it to deal with fraud.

The author is a partner at international law firm Clifford Chance, where he heads the firm's Fraud Investigation Unit, and chairman of the Institute of Chartered Accountants' fraud advisory panel. He was formerly the head of the Serious Fraud Office.

Thinking of shopping the boss but don't want to lose your job? Help is at hand

MOST employees will think twice about bringing their bosses to book if they detect some serious malpractice at work. There are few benefits in blowing the whistle for the dutiful employee. Often the most obvious consequence is dismissal. Employment contracts are frequently drawn up so that an employee must respect a duty of confidentiality to his or her employer. A new Bill, currently mak-

ing its progress through Parliament, is designed to overcome the legitimate fears of employees and to encourage them to report serious malpractice. Although the Public Interest Disclosure Bill is sponsored by an Opposition hack-bencher, it has the support of the Government and is likely to become law by the summer. The proposed legislation, unofficially dubbed the Whistle-blowing Bill, seeks to

protect workers from recriminations from employers if, when acting in good faith and in the public interest, they report actual or suspected wrongdoing. It will apply to most individual employees, including agency workers and homeworkers, though not to self-employed professionals (such as accountants), voluntary workers, the police and the armed forces.

For disclosures to be pro-

tested, the worker making them would need to have a "reasonable belief" that some crime or miscarriage of justice had taken place or was likely to take place, or that some legal obligation had been or was likely to be infringed. Disclosures would also be protected if the worker had a reasonable belief that information relating to these matters was likely to be deliberately concealed. The range

of disclosures which would afford the worker protection under the Bill are referred to as "qualifying disclosures". The Bill is framed to encourage employees who have "qualifying disclosures" to first approach their employer. In order to be protected when making a "qualifying disclosure" to one's employer, the employee would only need to act in good faith. In order to be protected when disclosing to a third party, the worker would have to meet additional criteria.

First, he would need to satisfy a higher test of belief that his information was accurate and not motivated by personal gain. Second, he would be expected to have first raised his concerns with his employer, although this would not always be necessary where the worker had good reason to believe that such action would lead to victimisation or to the

destruction of evidence. In cases of what the Bill calls "exceptionally serious failure", which could mean cases of major fraud or a very serious threat to health and safety, the worker can report externally straight away. The protection which the new law would provide to whistle-blowers is twofold. Where a worker is victimised but not dismissed, he will be entitled to receive compensa-

tion assessed in the light of the circumstances of the case. The consequences in the case of dismissal are currently less clear. But however the detail of the new law works out, any positive contribution to the means available to combat fraud will be welcome.

John Davies

The author is senior technical officer at the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

TEL: 0171 293 2222

APPOINTMENTS: LEGAL

FAX: 0171 293 2505

EU/COMPETITION - LONDON AND BRUSSELS

One of the most successful City firms with a strong European presence seeks EU/Competition Lawyers for both its London and Brussels offices. Quality of work is outstanding. The firm has a dynamic, young culture and there are excellent prospects. Ref: 4689
Contact: Pandora Guthrie

ENERGY / OIL AND GAS

This City firm has one of the best reputations for its energy and natural resources practice. It seeks a dynamic Lawyer to join its team headed by 15 partners to handle oil and gas projects throughout the world. Ref: 1884
Contact: Pandora Guthrie

CORPORATE - PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

Stand-alone position in top City firm seeks full-time experienced corporate finance lawyer for know-how role. Preferably with at least 3 yrs PQE, you will have excellent organisational skills for this responsible position. Part-time roles also available elsewhere. Ref: 1234
Contact: Jane Glassberg

CONSTRUCTION

Brand new position for junior assistant (PP or in-house background) to handle superb quality work in stand-alone construction department (circa 40 partner firm). The practice has a particularly good reputation for looking after their employees. Ref: 5550
Contact: Jane Glassberg

EMPLOYMENT

This 35 partner Central London firm has a dedicated employment practice. Having just recruited a further partner, the group seeks to appoint another assistant as the team continues to expand. Emphasis on non-contentious work. Ideally with tax and NI experience. Ref: 5861
Contact: Cleo Binns

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Snappy West End firm with reputation for property development has a need for an experienced lawyer to join its team. Ideally with a general background, you will provide corporate support to other key practice areas. Truly a chance to make early partnership. Ref: 5874
Contact: Cleo Binns

COMPANY COMMERCIAL (DUBAI)

Having completed your training in a "City" firm you will be keen to gain some international experience at this early stage of your career. Your legal and commercial skills will be enhanced through close client contact and the diversity of work on offer. Ref: 5839
Contact: Scott Gibson

SCANDINAVIAN CORPORATE LAWYER

The established London office of this US firm is expanding its Scandinavian Practice group, currently consisting of two lawyers and a trainee. The ideal candidate will be fluent in Norwegian and/or Swedish. Excellent remuneration. Ref: 5960
Contact: Scott Gibson

INSOLVENCY (CONT & NON CONT)

With the "Tiger" economies of South East Asia undergoing a significant "correction", Asia's leading insolvency law firm is seeking additional lawyers. Two 5-8 years qualified lawyers will join a 2 partner, 4 assistants team and will be groomed partnership in the short/medium term. Ref: 5524
Contact: Peter Gooden

1 - 5 YEARS' PQE

This City firm has one of the best reputations for its energy and natural resources practice. It seeks a dynamic Lawyer to join its team headed by 15 partners to handle oil and gas projects throughout the world. Ref: 1884
Contact: Pandora Guthrie

1 - 4 YEARS' PQE

This City firm has one of the best reputations for its energy and natural resources practice. It seeks a dynamic Lawyer to join its team headed by 15 partners to handle oil and gas projects throughout the world. Ref: 1884
Contact: Pandora Guthrie

TO OUTSTANDING

Stand-alone position in top City firm seeks full-time experienced corporate finance lawyer for know-how role. Preferably with at least 3 yrs PQE, you will have excellent organisational skills for this responsible position. Part-time roles also available elsewhere. Ref: 1234
Contact: Jane Glassberg

1 - 3 YEARS' PQE

Brand new position for junior assistant (PP or in-house background) to handle superb quality work in stand-alone construction department (circa 40 partner firm). The practice has a particularly good reputation for looking after their employees. Ref: 5550
Contact: Jane Glassberg

3 - 5 YEARS' PQE

This 35 partner Central London firm has a dedicated employment practice. Having just recruited a further partner, the group seeks to appoint another assistant as the team continues to expand. Emphasis on non-contentious work. Ideally with tax and NI experience. Ref: 5861
Contact: Cleo Binns

5 YEARS' PQE

Snappy West End firm with reputation for property development has a need for an experienced lawyer to join its team. Ideally with a general background, you will provide corporate support to other key practice areas. Truly a chance to make early partnership. Ref: 5874
Contact: Cleo Binns

NQ - 3 YEARS' PQE

Having completed your training in a "City" firm you will be keen to gain some international experience at this early stage of your career. Your legal and commercial skills will be enhanced through close client contact and the diversity of work on offer. Ref: 5839
Contact: Scott Gibson

LONDON

The established London office of this US firm is expanding its Scandinavian Practice group, currently consisting of two lawyers and a trainee. The ideal candidate will be fluent in Norwegian and/or Swedish. Excellent remuneration. Ref: 5960
Contact: Scott Gibson

HONG KONG

With the "Tiger" economies of South East Asia undergoing a significant "correction", Asia's leading insolvency law firm is seeking additional lawyers. Two 5-8 years qualified lawyers will join a 2 partner, 4 assistants team and will be groomed partnership in the short/medium term. Ref: 5524
Contact: Peter Gooden

PERSONAL INJURY SPECIALISTS

Niche practice requires two defendant PI lawyers (1 solicitor & 1 executive). An existing caseload of RFA, EL and PL work currently produces a substantial fee-income. The firm has attracted excellent staff and wishes to maintain this emphasis on quality. Ref: 4565
Contact: Peter Gooden

TELECOMS (1 TO 4 YEARS' PQE) IN-HOUSE

Leading Telecoms/Cable company with a strong and established in-house legal team requires a further Lawyer. The position deals with all the legal commercial aspects of the company's business ie Telecoms, Broadcast Services, Cable TV, etc. Good prospects. Competitive package. Ref: 5955
Contact: Richard Gawn

TELECOMS (2 TO 4 YEARS' PQE) IN-HOUSE

International Telecoms organisation with a strong reputation for diversification, growth and a competitive approach has a new role for a commercially orientated lawyer. The work covers the varied products the company offers. Telecoms experience an advantage. Ref: 5725
Contact: Richard Gawn

PROPERTY LAWYER IN-HOUSE

Communications Company requires a 4 to 7 year Qualified Lawyer to handle all aspects of the company's property work. The role will require a self-starter with the confidence to take on this "stand-alone" role. Good package on offer. Ref: 5959
Contact: Richard Gawn

IT IN-HOUSE LONDON

Our client is a pioneering IT Services company held in high regard. Their clientele comprises multinational corporations for whom they provide inter alia multi-media, outsourcing and systems integration services. A superb opportunity for an IT/IP young lion. Ref: 5895
Contact: Andrew Foote

IT IN-HOUSE BERKSHIRE

Major US IT company requires a senior lawyer to lead expansion of the legal function as the company prepares for the Millennium. The ideal candidate will have European insight and excellent leadership abilities. Current experience in the IT sector is strongly preferred. Ref: 5845
Contact: Andrew Foote

CAPITAL MARKETS IN-HOUSE

The Capital Markets arm of this leading international banking group seeks an experienced lawyer with good specialist experience. You will join a dept of 5 lawyers which is supported by a documentation team doing the "vanilla" work. Ref: 5933
Contact: Paul Runnacles

DERIVATIVES IN-HOUSE

A friendly legal team in a financial services boutique seeks an enthusiastic young lawyer with some derivatives experience for a responsible position offering lots of front-office involvement. 2-4 year qualified solicitor with excellent interpersonal skills will prosper here! Ref: 5893
Contact: Paul Runnacles

GLOBAL CUSTODY IN-HOUSE

A fairly junior commercial lawyer (18 months - 3 years' pqe) is sought by one of the World's leading custodians. The successful candidate will have gained some exposure to the Financial Services sector - anyone who doesn't know what global custody is unlikely to be of interest! Ref: 5934
Contact: Paul Runnacles

3 - 7 YEARS' PQE

Niche practice requires two defendant PI lawyers (1 solicitor & 1 executive). An existing caseload of RFA, EL and PL work currently produces a substantial fee-income. The firm has attracted excellent staff and wishes to maintain this emphasis on quality. Ref: 4565
Contact: Peter Gooden

SURREY

Leading Telecoms/Cable company with a strong and established in-house legal team requires a further Lawyer. The position deals with all the legal commercial aspects of the company's business ie Telecoms, Broadcast Services, Cable TV, etc. Good prospects. Competitive package. Ref: 5955
Contact: Richard Gawn

THAMES VALLEY

International Telecoms organisation with a strong reputation for diversification, growth and a competitive approach has a new role for a commercially orientated lawyer. The work covers the varied products the company offers. Telecoms experience an advantage. Ref: 5725
Contact: Richard Gawn

SURREY

Communications Company requires a 4 to 7 year Qualified Lawyer to handle all aspects of the company's property work. The role will require a self-starter with the confidence to take on this "stand-alone" role. Good package on offer. Ref: 5959
Contact: Richard Gawn

1 - 4 YEARS' PQE

This 35 partner Central London firm has a dedicated employment practice. Having just recruited a further partner, the group seeks to appoint another assistant as the team continues to expand. Emphasis on non-contentious work. Ideally with tax and NI experience. Ref: 5861
Contact: Cleo Binns

8+ YEARS' PQE

Snappy West End firm with reputation for property development has a need for an experienced lawyer to join its team. Ideally with a general background, you will provide corporate support to other key practice areas. Truly a chance to make early partnership. Ref: 5874
Contact: Cleo Binns

CITY

Having completed your training in a "City" firm you will be keen to gain some international experience at this early stage of your career. Your legal and commercial skills will be enhanced through close client contact and the diversity of work on offer. Ref: 5839
Contact: Scott Gibson

CITY

The established London office of this US firm is expanding its Scandinavian Practice group, currently consisting of two lawyers and a trainee. The ideal candidate will be fluent in Norwegian and/or Swedish. Excellent remuneration. Ref: 5960
Contact: Scott Gibson

CITY

With the "Tiger" economies of South East Asia undergoing a significant "correction", Asia's leading insolvency law firm is seeking additional lawyers. Two 5-8 years qualified lawyers will join a 2 partner, 4 assistants team and will be groomed partnership in the short/medium term. Ref: 5524
Contact: Peter Gooden



Hughes-Castell International Legal Recruitment Consultants
London Office: No. 87 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1BD. Tel: 0171 242 0303 Fax: 0171 242 7111
Hong Kong Office: 701 and 702 East Town Building, 41 Lockhart Road, Hong Kong.
New York • Chicago • Atlanta • San Francisco • Palo Alto • Sydney • Melbourne • Brisbane

THE INDEPENDENT

RECRUITMENT DIARY

MONDAY

MEDIA+

A 24 page pull-out guide to careers in Media, Marketing & Sales

TUESDAY

NETWORK+

A 20 page guide to careers in the computing industry

WEDNESDAY

CITY+

City opportunities

THURSDAY

EDUCATION+

Graduate & General Appointments

SUNDAY

SMART MOVES

General Appointments

TEL: 0171 293 2222

LEGAL

Employee Benefits/Share Schemes

Deloitte & Touche



BERWIN LEIGHTON

Recent research into the market shows that employee benefits is an area which is rapidly growing. Both law firms and accountancy practices are recruiting extensively for lawyers within this specialised market.

You will be involved in high profile work with an international client base. Opportunities include:

- Designing, implementing and advising on share plans.
- Human resources consulting.
- Advising on acquisitions.

Ideal candidates will either be newly qualifieds with an interest in this area or solicitors with relevant experience. Remuneration packages are attractive and career prospects exceptional.

For further details of the opportunities available, please contact Anju Aluwalia at Badenoch & Clark, 16-18 New Bridge Street, London EC4V 6AU. Tel no: 0171 583 0073 - Fax no: 0171 353 3908.

BADENOCH & CLARK
recruitment specialists

**COURTNEY
VAN DER BORGH
SHAH**

MAYFAIR SOLICITORS

Expanding 3 Partner firm who believe in enjoying life as well as work require:

(a) **Experience
Commercial
Conveyancer**
(3/4 yrs ppe).
Salary up to £35,000pa (ace)

(b) **Experienced
Company Commercial
Solicitor**

Applicant with own following preferred.

Salary negotiable according to experience and following. Interesting and varied work with excellent prospects

CV's to Giles Courtenay-Evans
Courtenay van der Borgh Shah
51 Charles Street
Berkley Square
London W1X 8LB
Tel: 0171 493 2903
Fax: 0171 493 3877

To advertise in
this section please call the
LEGAL TEAM on
0171 293 3324.

**WHY GO
INTERNATIONAL?...**



CAYMAN ISLANDS
SYDNEY • SINGAPORE
HONG KONG • AUCKLAND
NEW YORK • PRAGUE
WARSAW • MOSCOW
PARIS • MILAN • MADRID
TOKYO • BEIJING

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

Contact Sarah Pike
(Europe, North America & The Caribbean)
or Mike Wolff (Far East and Australasia)
at Daniels Bates Legal, 1st Floor, High
Holborn House, 52-54 High Holborn,
London WC1V 6RL
Tel: +44 (0)171 404 4646
Fax: +44 (0)171 831 7969.
E-mail: sarahpike@hwgroup.com
E-mail: michaelwolff@hwgroup.com

THEN AGAIN...



**HW
GROUP**
DANIELS BATES LEGAL
A BRAND OF THE HW GROUP

**DANIELS
BATES**
LEGAL
A BRAND OF THE HW GROUP

• CORPORATE TAX • TELECOMS • ENERGY • EU/COMPETITION • IP/IT • COMMERCIAL PROPERTY •

5 Warrimood Street
London EC2M 1RQ
Tel: +44 (0)171 407 1100
Fax: +44 (0)171 407 1111

**GARFIELD
ROBBINS**
LONDON • SYDNEY

1-29, The Clifley Tower
2 Clifley Square
Sydney NSW 2000
Tel: +61 2 9375 2181
Fax: +61 2 9375 2185

MOSCOW
NQ To 4 Years Qualified
Big name US firm now seeks finance, capital markets and corporate lawyers with common law qualifications to join its highly successful Moscow operation. The firm is investing heavily in its Russian based practice. The transactions which the office has ongoing are first rate and ranges from project finance through syndicated lending to M&A work at the cutting edge of Russian commercial activity. This is an excellent opportunity for you to carve out a name for yourself and to enjoy the benefits of expatriate legal life. Ref: IN03968.H

CORPORATE TAX
5 Years + Qualified
Our client is a medium sized, progressive firm based in central London, with a client base taken from the media and entertainment industry, as well as a number of private and public listed companies. Much of the firm's tax work is currently being outsourced, and they are now seeking a high calibre individual to be the firm's sole tax lawyer. Superb working environment and excellent prospects for the right candidate. Ref: IN04040.J
TELECOMS

ENERGY
NQ To 10 Years Qualified
Join a young team headed by a leading telecoms lawyer in this progressive City firm and enjoy a rewarding career where responsibility and wide exposure to clients are guaranteed. You will be handling all aspects of telecommunications and IT outsourcing especially in the Far East, obtaining ISR and other telecommunications licenses. You should have regulatory experience and competition advice in the telecoms sector is an advantage. Ref: IN04002.P

ENERGY
Partner
Pre-eminent energy practice in the City is seeking an additional partner to join its highly successful energy team. The firm currently handles high profile matters in the oil, gas and electricity sectors both nationally and internationally. Applicants must have an innovative commercial approach together with excellent credentials. Excellent opportunity to join a firm with an enviable client base.
Ref: IN00521.L
CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL

EU/COMPETITION
2 to 5 Years Qualified
Those seeking to move to Brussels and gain first class experience working at the heart of Europe will find this position irresistible. With the benefits of working in a smaller office but with the support of a larger global practice behind you, exposure to headline making deals is the norm. Those with between 2 and 5 years ppe are invited to apply.
Ref: IN0771.G
IP/IT
Partner

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
5 to 10 Years Qualified
No following is required for a position in this busy commercial property department of a leading City firm. The firm's property work includes purchases, sales, development projects and all forms of secured lending. Considerable emphasis is placed on personality and excellent technical experience is essential, as well as a commercial and professional approach. Ref: IN04000.J

Visit our web site
more positions
www.garfieldrobbins.com



TEL: 0171 293 2222

LEGAL

FAX: 0171 293 2505

LOOKING TO MOVE

ENVIRONMENTAL

To £43,000
This is perfect for a lawyer with 0-2 years' ppe who wants to become an environmental specialist. Not only will this top 15 City firm train you up, but you will also enjoy all the usual big firm benefits. The work is mainly corporate support, but you will play a key role in efforts to build the practice in its own right. Ref: D25170

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

To £50,000
With a very high-profile media clientele like this leading West End firm has, you can be sure of similarly interesting corporate work. But in addition to the quality of work, this is a quality of life move as a firm that has much experience of the brighter side of life. You need 2-4 years' ppe to take advantage. Ref: D44228

FUND/FSFA

To £50,000
This is an excellent opportunity to work alongside a leading name in fund management and financial services. With him behind you, you will progress very rapidly up the ranks of this top 20 City firm and the profession generally if you have 0-3 years' ppe, either relevant or in general corporate work. Ref: D28732

AVIATION

To £55,000
Your career will take off with the huge range of experience you will gain as an aviation lawyer at this top West End firm. Finance, commercial and competition law are all involved in this fascinating field, and you need 0-5 years' ppe in banking and not necessarily in aviation. A second language would help. Ref: O19841

PROJECT FINANCE

To £85,000
You should be able to afford a 10-gallon hat after you join the London office of this leading Team firm, whose energy law practice is arguably without peer. A fantastic opening in the energy team, in terms of money and quality of life, for a finance, corporate or commercial lawyer with 2+ years' ppe. Ref: O18751

BANKING KNOW-HOW

To £65,000
This top 10 City firm expects to professional support lawyers to work to as high a standard as its fee-earners, which is why their salaries are comparable. But the stress is less and the hours good if you can show 4+ years' ppe in banking and the right skills for precedent drafting and updating know-how. Ref: D46691

EMPLOYMENT

To £50,000
The well-known medium-sized City firm has made great strides and continues to go from strength to strength. This means the prospects are unusually good for an employment lawyer with 0-4 years' ppe in contentious and non-contentious work. Ref: D46138

PROPERTY

To £36,000
This well-known City firm may have made big strides since a fairly recent merger, but that does not mean it is cracking the whip too hard. The hourly target for the property lawyer with 12-18 months' ppe who joins it will be on the low side, but the work will be of a high quality. What more could you want? Ref: D46785

BANKING/CORPORATE

Middle East To £220,000
The many rewards for joining this top international law firm in the middle east are not just financial. As a banking/finance lawyer with 0-7 years' ppe, you will soon head up to Bahrain office, while the quality of life for banking or corporate/securities lawyers with 18 months-5 years' ppe in Riyadh is outstanding. Ref: O12263

BANKING

To £50,000
If you enjoy being a banking lawyer but dislike the macho culture that so often surrounds it in the City, then look no further than the London office of the top national firm. It will help you enjoy both your work and your working day if you can show 0-5 years' ppe in general banking matters. Ref: D36633

IP/IT

To £45,000
This go-ahead and industrious medium-sized City firm needs IP/IT lawyers with 2-4 years' ppe who fit the same bill. In return, you can expect an environment that will encourage your professional development and allow you to enjoy a personal life. There are some excellent career opportunities too. Ref: O16988

TAX

4 years plus To £70,000
Major top five City firm seeking international tax lawyer with at least four years' ppe. The tax department deals with the full range of transaction and advisory work for corporate and financial clients and you will get quality work, real responsibility and the opportunity to join an expanding practice. Ref: D28097

EMPLOYMENT/BENEFITS

To £65,000
You will be given every help to learn new skills as an employment/benefits lawyer with 2-5 years' ppe at this medium-sized City firm. The work will be very broad, including corporate immigration, although you need to know the tax treatment of termination payments and pension insurance. Ref: D46888

INSOLVENCY FAR EAST

To £Partnership
Given the state of the far east economies, it is perhaps no surprise that this top 10 City firm is looking to send insolvency assistants at all levels out to work in exciting Singapore, where the quality of life exceeds even the quality of work. This is a one-off opportunity to grab while you can. Ref: D46755



For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Alison Jacobs, Gavin Sharpe or Tim Marshall (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-731 5699 or 0171-794 8188 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JF. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.

LONDON • BIRMINGHAM • LEEDS • MANCHESTER • HONG KONG • PARIS • NEW YORK • SYDNEY • MELBOURNE • AMSTERDAM • TORONTO • VANCOUVER

students of any discipline

you can become solicitors or barristers

The College of Law has trained over 90% of managing partners in the top city firms. Follow the leaders of the legal profession and apply for:

The Common Professional Examination (CPE)

The law conversion course for graduates of any discipline. It's the first stage in qualifying as a solicitor or barrister. Places are available full-time in London, Chester, Guildford or York and part-time in London for September 1998. Distance learning course also available.

The Legal Practice Course (LPC)

The vocational stage of training to become a solicitor, for law graduates or CPE holders. Places are available part-time or full-time in London, Chester, Guildford or York for September 1998.

The Bar Vocational Course (BVC) - the vocational stage of training to become a barrister, for law graduates or CPE holders. Places are available full-time in London for September 1999.

For further information telephone

The College of Law on:

01483 460382

Ref: INOE2/98



The College of Law
Developing the Profession

LONDON

Company Commercial Solicitor Sussex

This is an exciting, challenging position with a well established and forward thinking multi-branch practice for a Solicitor with up to ten years ppe gained with a quality provincial/city practice.

In return for experience and a sound commercial outlook the firm will provide the opportunity and support from their existing commercial department for the successful candidate to develop their career in a lively and commercially active town less than an hour from London.

The role is a high profile one which will entail representing the firm in all commercial situations. Experience of dealing with a comprehensive range of clients, from plc's to local businesses is essential, as is the ability and desire to become part of the local business community.

For further information please contact:

CASEY

ASSOCIATES

Recruitment Specialists

Casey Casey,
Casey Associates,
23 High Street, Lewes,
East Sussex, BN7 2LJ.
(01273) 488111 (day),
(01273) 384460 (even),
Fax: (01273) 488222.

PROPERTY LITIGATION

£60,000+
Having authorised the accelerated growth of its Property Litigation team this c.20 partner Central London firm, boasting a most impressive property client portfolio, including many London estates, seeks an inspirational leader to spearhead the development of this team focusing on the firm's untapped sources and your own contacts. Ideally your experience should include planning disputes. Immediate partnership.

INFO TECHNOLOGY

£50 - £90,000
Are you a bright spark? Ambitious and committed, with excellent IT experience? Sounds like you should be joining the existing team at this medium sized Central London practice, as a senior member (5 years+ ppe) and play a key role in the development of the department. Probably with some evidence of practice development skills, the route to partnership will be short and clear.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

£36 - £58,000
This medium sized West End firm seeks a young, ambitious and truly self-motivated assistant (3-5 years ppe) to become part of its litigation team, the variety of work of which includes insolvency, banking and property litigation, often with an international element. If this is the environment for you, having gained experience in these areas, there are real opportunities and prospects awaiting!

PRIVATE CLIENT

To £40,000
One of the City firms most rightly regarded for its private client work, acting for an interesting cross-section of landed estates, inherited wealth clients and entrepreneurs, seeks a solicitor, 1-3 years' ppe. You will be in a good 'stable' but want to join a firm that offers a steady flow of high profile instructions, career management and offers excellent prospects.

FRAUD

£N/Q - £38,000
Unarguably one of London's leading firms in this field our client is a highly focussed, progressive, down-to-earth and friendly firm. Medium sized and City-based its reputation for dealing with IR/C&E investigations was established long ago and ensures a steady flow of high profile instructions. An assistant solicitor, ideally with relevant litigation experience, is sought to join a busy team dealing with some of the gristiest work around.

EMPLOYMENT PARTNER

£65 - £125,000
Inspired by the successful development of their Employment units, this major City firm now contemplating the long road to partnership! Our client is the vibrant City office of a leading US firm offering unparalleled variety, responsibility and an early partnership in a small, expanding team acting on a world class corporate/finance transactions.

CORPORATE ASSISTANT

£45 - £100,000
Are you a top flight, ambitious corporate assistant (2-5 years' ppe) at a major City firm now contemplating the long road to partnership? Our client is the vibrant City office of a leading US firm offering unparalleled variety, responsibility and an early partnership in a small, expanding team acting on a world class corporate/finance transactions.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

£30 - £45,000
Are you requisitioned from all sides, restricted in your experience, at the end of your lease? Does your present firm give a freehold about your long-term future and security? We'd stakeholder our deposit on the fact that this small to medium sized City firm can offer you more in every respect. A close-knit team handles a broad range of high quality work, in an informal and friendly environment - if you are 0-2 years' qualified with the desire to get more out of your career than begs under your eyes, this is the exchange you've been waiting for.

CO/COMMERCIAL

£36 - £60,000
Constricted by the confines of a large practice! Would you welcome the opportunity to join a highly regarded medium sized practice in Central London, to handle a variety of corporate/commercial finance transactions for limited AIM companies and plc's. You will play a key role in legal matters and proactive development and your efforts will be handsomely rewarded. 3-5 years' ppe are sought.

PERSONAL INJURY (+)

£32 - 43,000
What better place to insure your future career progression than a highly regarded insurance litigation department? Our client, a medium sized litigation led firm seeks a German speaking assistant solicitor (1-3 years ppe), to undertake a broad range of insurance litigation work, ranging from personal injury to EL & PL. Vorsprung durch Versicherung!

PRIVATE CLIENT/TRUSTS

£36 - £52K
If onshore/offshore trusts and strategic tax planning are your forte and you are 2-4 years ppe, this medium-sized City firm, enjoying a rapid and sustained growth in this area from its growing UK and international client base, may well have the commitment to private client work and offer the personal prospects you are seeking.

INFO TECH

£70 - £160,000
As recent appointments have demonstrated, our client provides a superb platform for ambitious associates/junior partners. One of London's best kept recruitment secrets this medium-sized 'cutting-edge' firm which, in its broad corporate practice, already acts for IT multinationals seeks a top flight IT specialist (6 years+ ppe) to develop the exceptional position offering partnership in its true sense.

SHIPPING

£35 - £54,000
Major City firm with an international reputation seeks a solicitor with 1-4 years relevant experience to join a department encouraging exposure to a breadth of matters, and expecting its fee earners to actively market the firm's services. Intellectual rigour and a strong personality are a must.

EMPLOYMENT

£40 - £70,000
Dynamic, highly successful, meritocratic, highest quality caseload - just clichés? Not at this rising star of Central London firms. A recently expanded, supportive and winning team seeks an additional assistant (3-5 years ppe) to help with an ever increasing stream of instructions, both non-contentious and contentious, often with an international element. Blue chip rewards are on offer - don't let this be the one that got away.

CORPORATE FINANCE

£36 - £54,000
This Top 10 City firm which can truly boast an international presence and clientele seeks an enthusiastic and determined 2-4 years' qualified corporate finance assistant to handle a broad range of work within its sizeable and highly regarded corporate department. The work will include, amongst other matters, M&A, corporate finance and venture capital. If this sounds like you and you're looking to progression in the true sense of the word, this is the time for you.

To discuss any of the above appointments in detail, please contact Penny Temdrup, Anita Gohil or Simon Eagan on 0171 404 6669 (evenings/weekends 01252 715302), or write to us, in complete confidence, at 44/45 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1JB (fax: 0171 404 8817).

EAGAN JANION

If it's Legal, it's Eagan Janion.

LPA

legal recruitment

tel: 0171 430 1199
fax: 0171 631 1001
e-mail: the.lpa@virgin.net

PRIVATE PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

IP PRACTICE

To £40k
1-2 years' PQE. Excellent firm, superb high profile work (hard IP) and well known practitioners seek an additional junior member of the team. Candidates with a strong academic record and a science background (probably to degree/post-graduate level) would have an advantage. Ref: 647

PROPERTY LITIGATION

c. £30k
Newly qualified. Candidates with at least six months property litigation experience from a reputable practice (not necessarily a large city practice) would be considered. City Ref: 645

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

To £48k
c. 3 years' PQE. Opportunity for high calibre solicitor to reduce stress without compromising on quality of work or remuneration. Sounds sensible to us. Central London Ref: 661

EMPLOYMENT LAW

To £50k
1-4 years' PQE. Strong, dedicated prominent team with superb reputation for quality of advice and service seeks additional lawyers with broad employment law experience. If you are a high academic achiever with experience from a reputable practice, you would do well to investigate this firm. City Ref: 675

EMPLOYMENT LAW, CONTENTIOUS

To £36k
0-2 years' PQE. Outstanding opportunity to join well-known team in a major practice. Quality of work is superb and the team is friendly and supportive. You will have experience of contentious employment matters including some litigation training. City Ref: 669

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CORPORATE

To £40k
NQ-2 years' PQE. Excellent opportunity for a lawyer (possibly newly-qualified with good seats in both areas of the law) with experience of both environmental and corporate law to join a leading city law firm offering a good variety of work. You will need to be flexible and able to handle the environmental aspects of large corporate transactions as well as assisting the corporate team generally. This role would suit a very high calibre lawyer with a good academic record wishing to maintain two strings to his bow. City Ref: 674

CONSTRUCTION, NON-CONTENTIOUS

To £40k
1-2 years' PQE. Highly recommended opportunity representing one of a number of requirements in construction registered with us currently. City Ref: 644

MARCH QUALIFIERS

We still have a number of vacancies within city firms.

IN-HOUSE SPOTLIGHT

IP and COMMERCIAL LEGAL COUNSEL

£Exc
3-5 years' PQE. We are looking for high calibre lawyers with relevant commercial and IP experience to undertake a challenging role within a major multinational company. You will be keen to deal with and adapt to non-European business situations and provide a full legal support service to this Eastern European, former Soviet Union, Middle East and African focus of their operations as well as supporting the commercial legal needs of the company as a whole. You will be robust and able to maintain high professional standards and personal integrity in demanding situations. Middlesex Ref: 664

IT/SYSTEMS INTEGRATION

To £55k + bens
5-10 years' PQE. Our client has opportunities for first class lawyers or individuals with extensive contract management and negotiation experience with energy and flexibility. With experience comprising commercial contracts, software licensing, regulatory and ideally, telecommunications, you would be given a front line role in the company's substantial operations involving advice, negotiation of agreements for joint ventures and drafting of innovative contracts. You will be involved in the company's commercial activities from the bidding stage to completion. Travel involved. City Ref: 666

IN-HOUSE BANKING

EQUITY CAPITAL MARKETS

7-10 yrs PQE
Our client, one of the largest and most successful international banks, has a requirement and a substantial budget for a senior equity capital markets lawyer to join their in-house team based in the city. Further details on request. City Ref: 541

DEBT/EQUITY CAPITAL MARKETS

3-5 yrs PQE
A major reputable international bank requires an additional lawyer for its cap markets team with an impressive academic record and a training from a reputable practice or high calibre in-house role. Your contribution will be required over the full range of the bank's operations, also covering emerging markets. City Ref: 467

RETAIL BANKING LAWYER

£compet + bens
3-6 years' PQE. We are seeking applications from lawyers with experience of retail banking products to join a medium sized team of in-house lawyers. A very good quality of work within this major player makes this opportunity a serious attractions. City Ref: 681

For further information in complete confidence please contact Stephen Turvey or Cameron Turnbull at the address below

7 GRAY'S INN SQUARE, LONDON, WC1R 5AZ

Japan bids a fiery Olympic farewell



Bathed in glory: Japanese dancers perform amidst falling fireworks during the closing ceremony at Nagano yesterday. Britain's only medal was won (below) on Saturday by Sean Olsson, Dean Ward, Courtney Rumbolt and Paul Attwood in the fourman bobsleigh
Photographs: Mike Blake/Reuters, Shaun Botterill/Allsport



Passing the baton: Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the IOC, hands over the Olympic flag yesterday to Deedee Corradini, Mayor of Salt Lake City, home of the next Winter Games, as Nagano's Mayor, Tasuku Tsukada, looks on during the closing ceremony of the XVIIIth Winter Olympics in Nagano. The ceremony also featured the ride-by of a stage coach from the host city for 2002
Photographs: Ruben Sprich, Kimimasa Mayama/Reuters



*Survey undertaken by NOP Market Research among 1,000 randomly selected bank customers. Interviews were conducted by telephone between 24 Nov 1997 and 17 Dec 1997. Enquiries must be aged 18 or over. In order to safeguard our customers, certain transactions may require written confirmation. All First Direct customers automatically receive an overdraft of £250. First Direct reserves the right to decide to open an account for you. First Direct credit facilities are subject to status. For written details of our services write to First Direct, Freeport, Leeds LS98 2RF. First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc. To maintain a quality service, calls may be monitored and/or recorded. LLOYDS Cheque Account details are based on the Classic Account. The costs comprise fees of £3 per month. BARCLAYS Cheque Account details are based on the Barclays Bank Account. The costs comprise fees of £5 per month. NAT WEST Cheque Account details are based on the Current Plus Account. The costs comprise fees of £5 per month. All fees may vary in the future. First Direct variable interest rates for overdrafts of £250 is 12.6% EAR. All information based on authorised overdrafts of £250 for 5 days or more per month and correct at 15 January 1998. Member HSBC Group

first direct

Free from charges

Banking with First Direct is free because we do not charge Cheque Account customers for everyday banking transactions, even if you're overdrawn. And all our customers automatically receive an overdraft of £250 - also free of any fees. So compared to other high street bank accounts you're better off with First Direct from day one. We're a member of the HSBC Group which is one of the largest banking and financial services organisations in the world, and in the course of a year you'll find we offer more cost effective current account banking. And the service we provide means you benefit in many other ways too.

By telephone, 24 hours a day

We provide the ultimate in convenience. You can bank with us at any time, 365 days (and nights) of the year, from wherever there's a telephone, in your home, office or car. And all UK calls are charged at local rates.

Personal and professional service

Every call is answered by our Banking Representatives. They have all they need at their fingertips to deal with your day-to-day banking needs. And when you require more specialised assistance, such as a loan, they can instantly refer you to someone who can help.

if you don't enjoy free banking...

| Annual current account charges | |
|--|--------|
| <small>(Annual fees for use of £250 overdraft)</small> | |
| Lloyds Classic | £96.00 |
| NatWest Current Plus | £60.00 |
| Barclays Bank Account | £60.00 |
| First Direct Cheque Account | £0.00 |

...you're with the wrong bank

Join us today and never be with the wrong bank again
0800 24 24 24
Call free anytime quoting reference BB867

or complete the coupon and post to:
First Direct, FREEPOST, Leeds LS98 2RF

Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms or Title

Surname

Forename(s)

UK Address

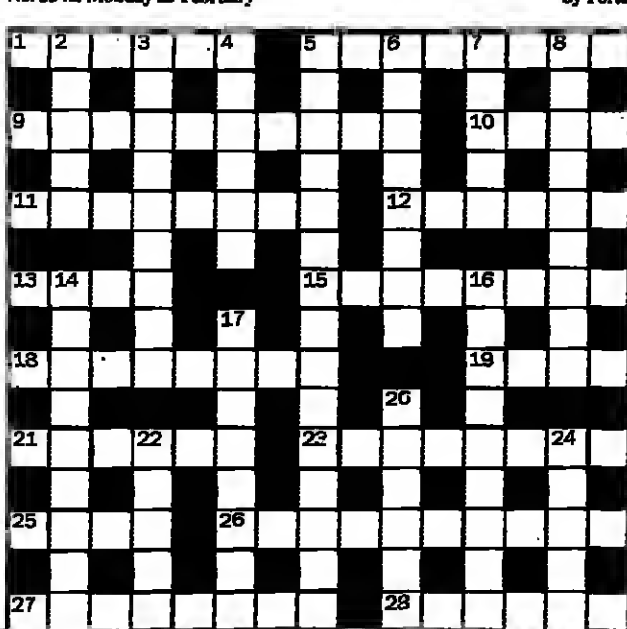
Postcode

Telephone No

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3541, Monday 23 February

By Pertis



- ACROSS**
- Work out main measurement (6)
 - African trainee is sacked around mid-March (8)
 - Transfer to vehicle (10)
 - Get wind of quarter reduction and make money (4)
 - Plant splits right inside (8)
 - Refuse to accommodate the centre party (6)
 - Woman found in Thai slave-market (4)
 - Perhaps bowler's catch gets Herts town (8)
 - Second's hesitation after gaining impetus (8)
 - Isle - sounds like heaven (4)
 - Marching home a short way (2,4)
 - Most like going round a region (4,4)

- Financial security gold provides (4)
- Occasionally a number stick at the same time (3,3,4)
- Very great power held by a heartless lady (8)
- Dry out a soft woolen shawl (6)
- DOWN**
- About due to reach reef (5)
- Mind not being free of worry (4,1,4)
- Possibly border on chaos (6)
- See men angry with drunken US novelist (6,9)
- One of many being linked with personality (8)
- Runs out of foreign currency so has to return (5)
- Relative who's fair game? (4,5)
- Coppers go in shortly and charge flyer (9)
- Officer's a member of division and is keeping quiet (9)
- Key reservists to take on in an emergency (2,1,5)
- Switch direction, circling Northern French town (6)
- All at once express disapproval over note (5)
- Wide range of view held about Welsh priest (5)

Descend from Country Wharf and experience a real

Peak.

10 times a day Swissair takes you from Heathrow to the Alps for a breathtaking view from above. And a breathtaking hike from below.

SWISSAIR

كانا من الادل